Astasia pygmaea (Skuja, 1939)

Most likely ID: n.a.

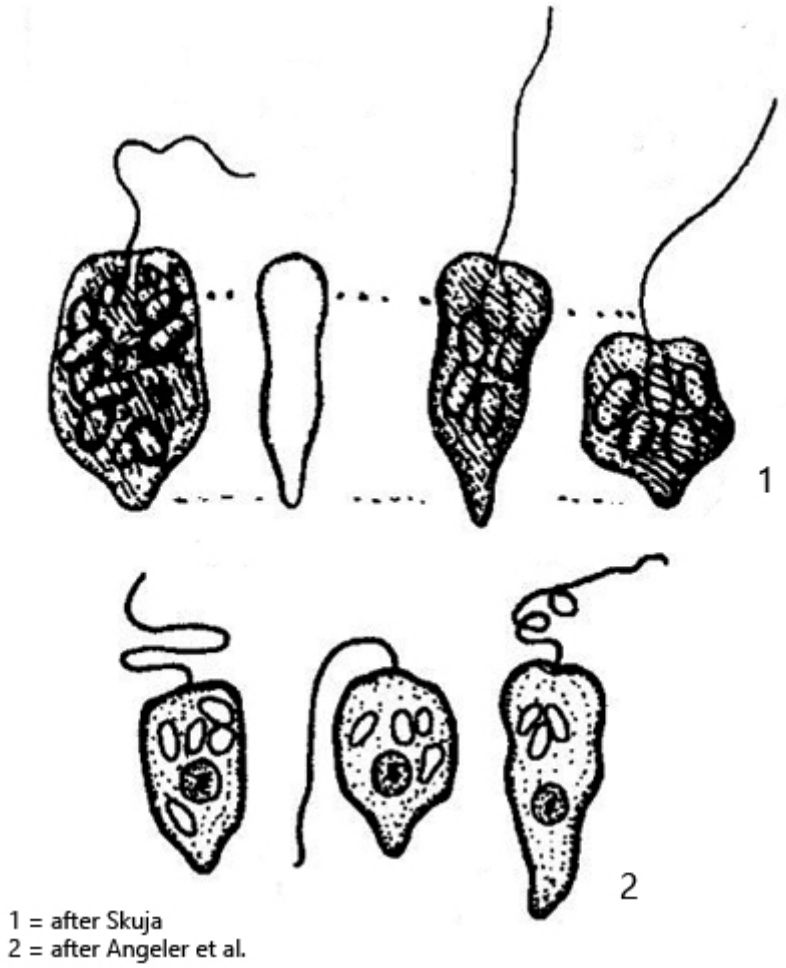
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Astasia pygmaea*

Diagnosis:

- body pear-shaped, somewhat flattened
- anterior end rounded
- posterior end abruptly tapered and rounded
- length 9–16 µm, width 7–9 µm
- flagellum of body length
- low euglenoid movement
- nucleus in mid-body or below cell equator
- paramylon grains oval or rod-shaped
- tight striation of pellicle



Astasia pygmaea

So far I have only found *Astasia pygmaea* in the mud layer of the Simmelried. The species can be recognized by its small size and compact shape. The posterior end often tapers abruptly and then appears cone-shaped (s. fig. 2 b), making the body pear-shaped.

Astasia pygmaea can be confused with the similar species *Astasia parvula* and *Astasia kathemerios*. However, the shape of *Astasia parvula* is never pear-shaped (broadly rounded posterior end) and *Astasia kathemerios* is twice as large and also not pear-shaped.

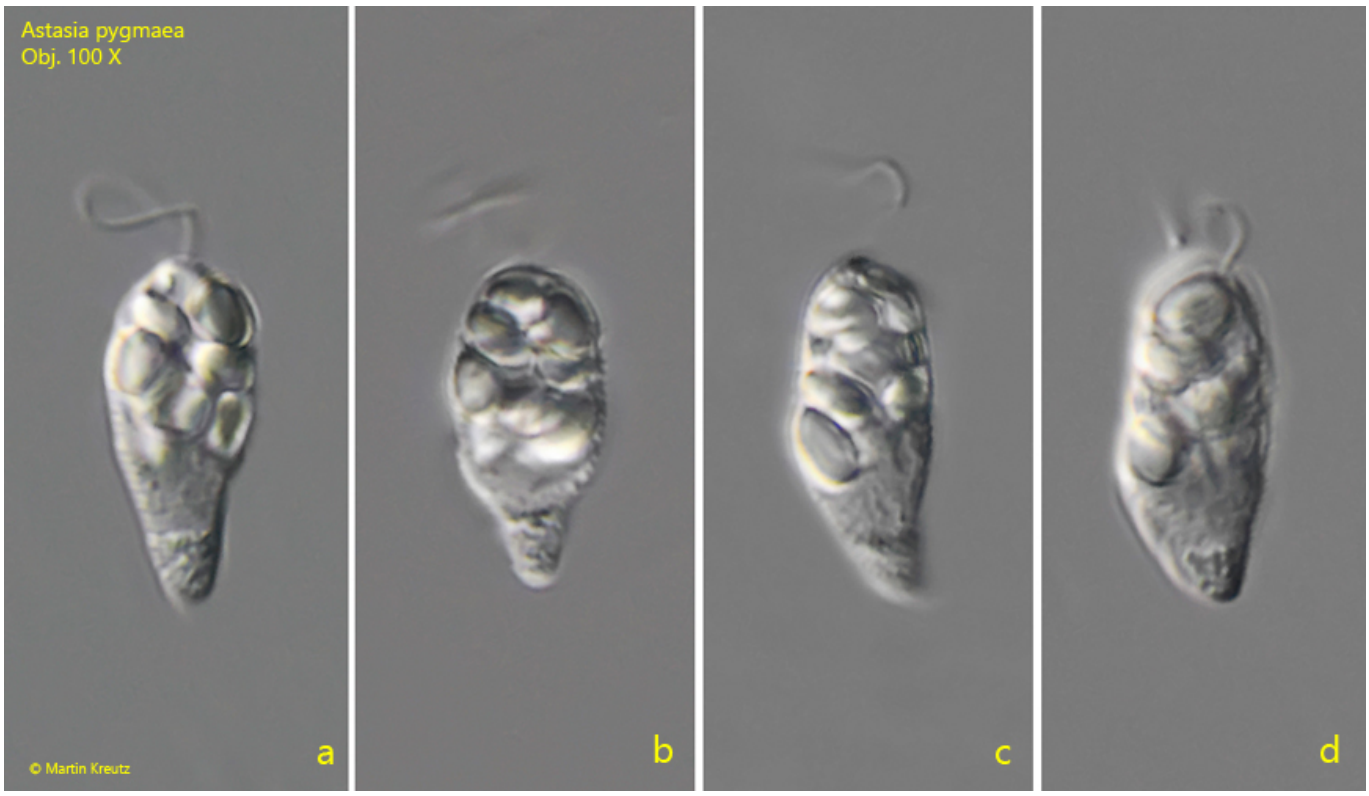


Fig. 1 a-d: *Astasia pygmaea*. L = 18 µm. A freely swimming specimen. Obj. 100 X.

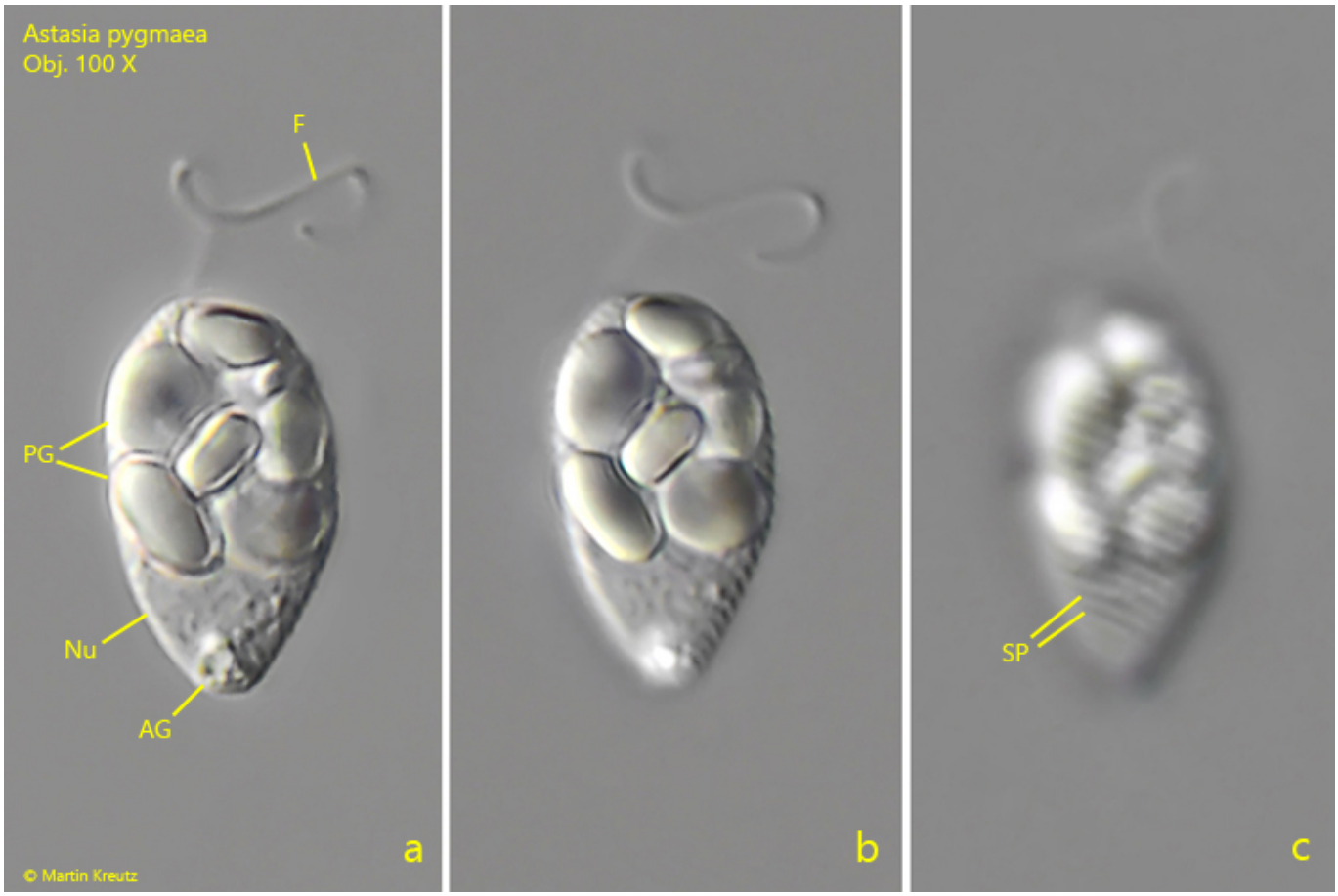


Fig. 2: *Astasia pygmaea*. L = 14 µm. A second, slightly squashed specimen. AG = posterior accumulation of small paramylon grains, F = flagellum, Nu = nucleus, PG = paramylon

grains, SP = striation of the pellicle. Obj. 100 X.