# *Astasia pygmaea* Skuja, 1939

**Most likely ID:** n.a.

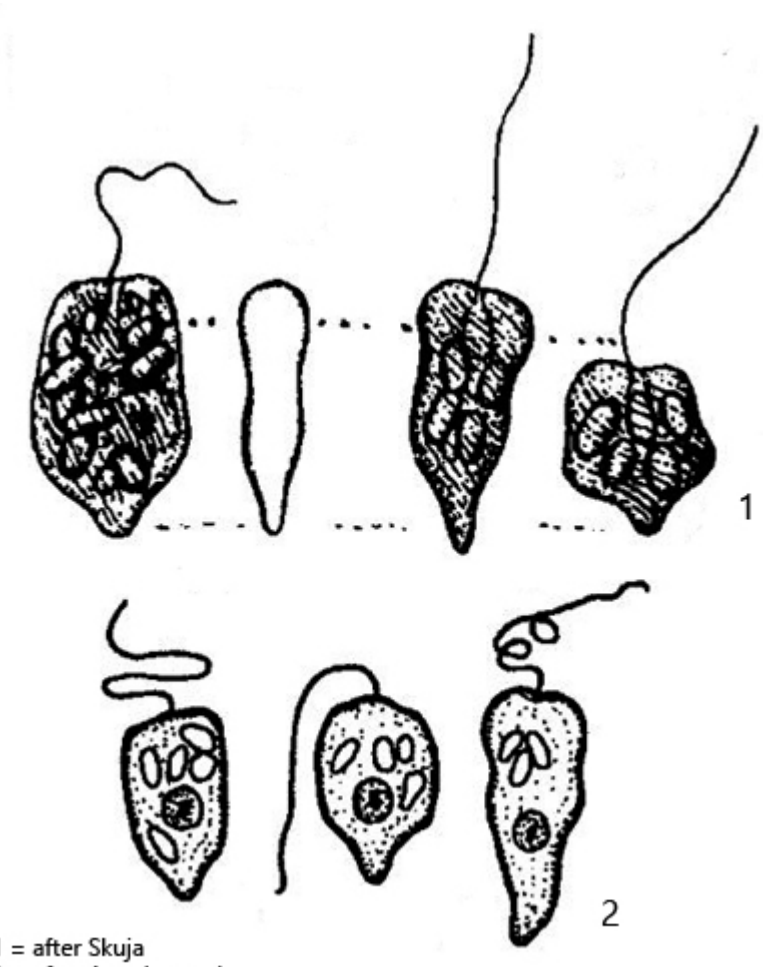
**Synonym:** n.a.

**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. 1 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.

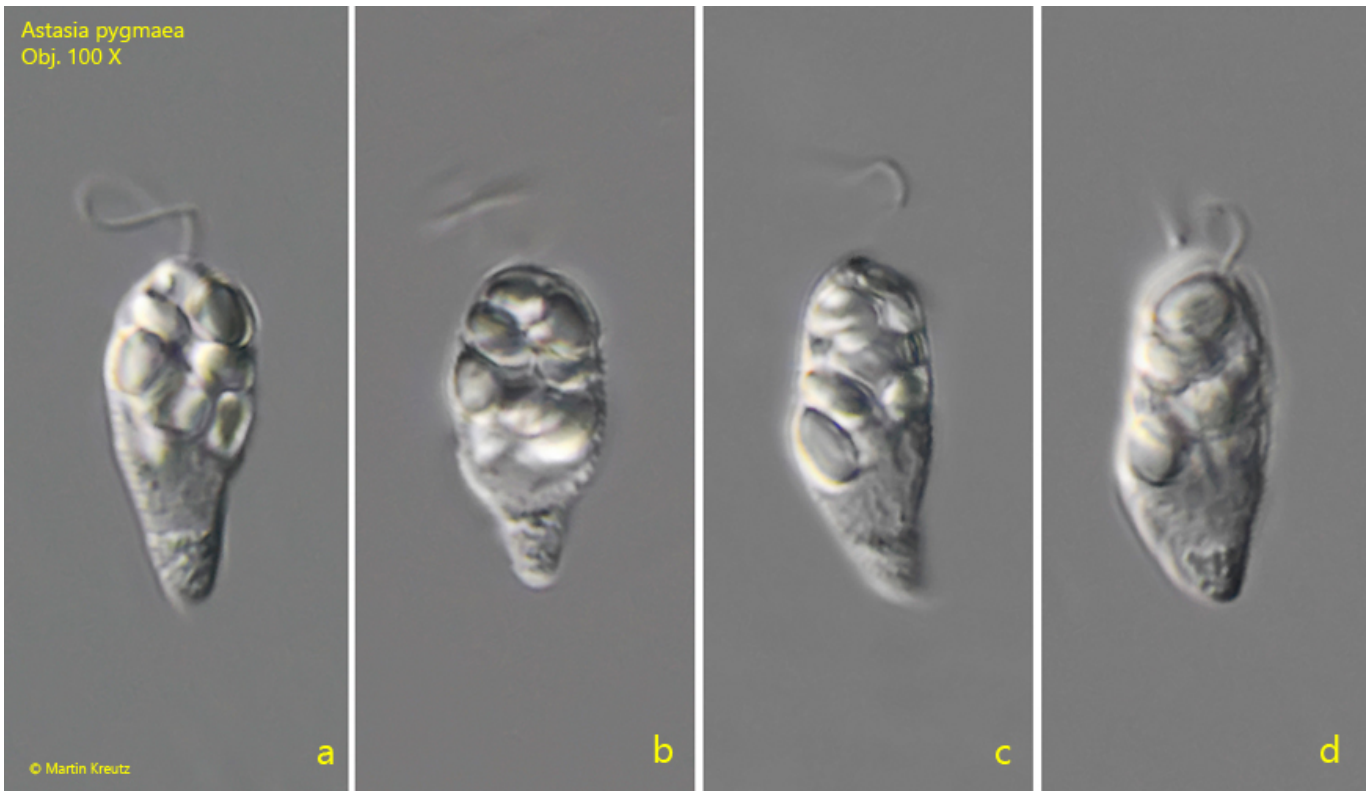



**Fig. 1 a-d:** *Astasia pygmaea*. L = 18 µm. A freely swimming specimen. Obj. 100 X.

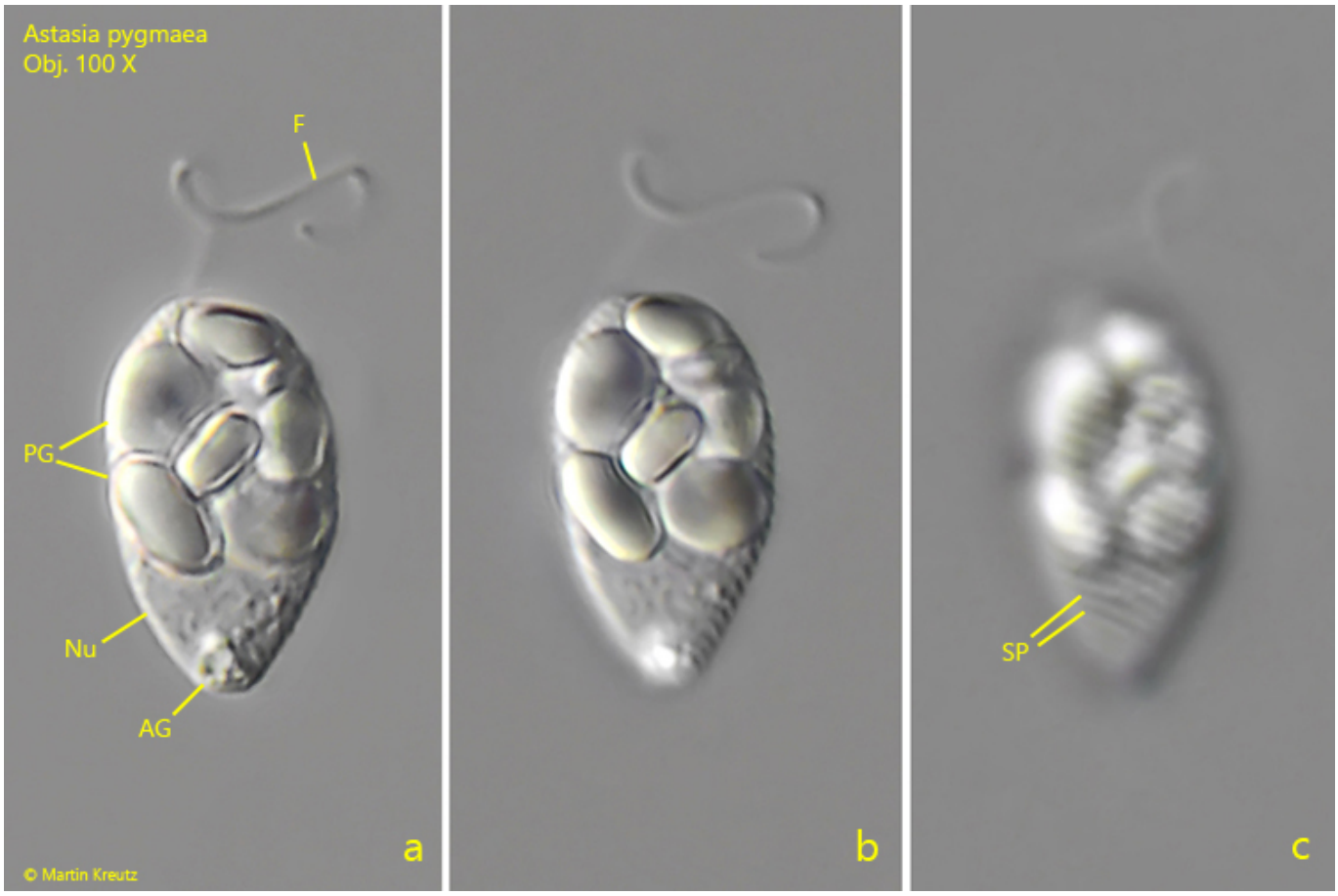



**Fig. 2 a-c:** *Astasia pygmaea*. L = 14 µm. A second, slightly squashed specimen. AG = posterior accumulation of small paramylon grains, F = flagellum, Nu = nucleus,

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