

***Blepharisma americanum* (Suzuki, 1954)**

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

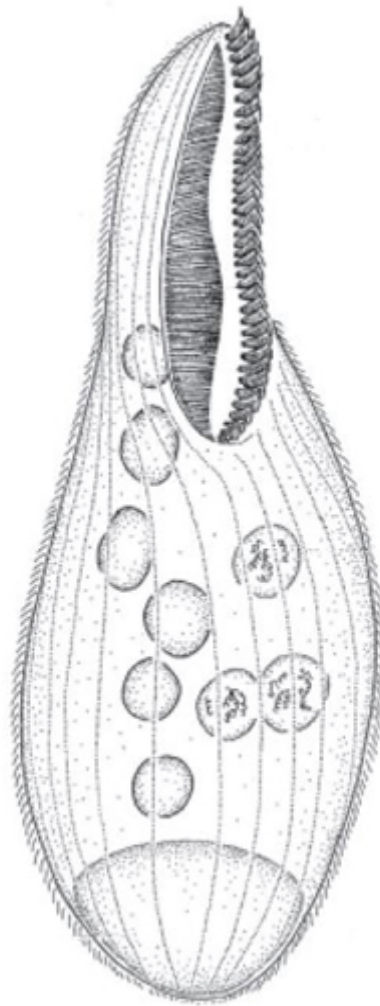
**Synonym:** n.a.

**Sampling location:** [Simmelried](#)

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Blepharisma americanum](#)

**Diagnosis:**

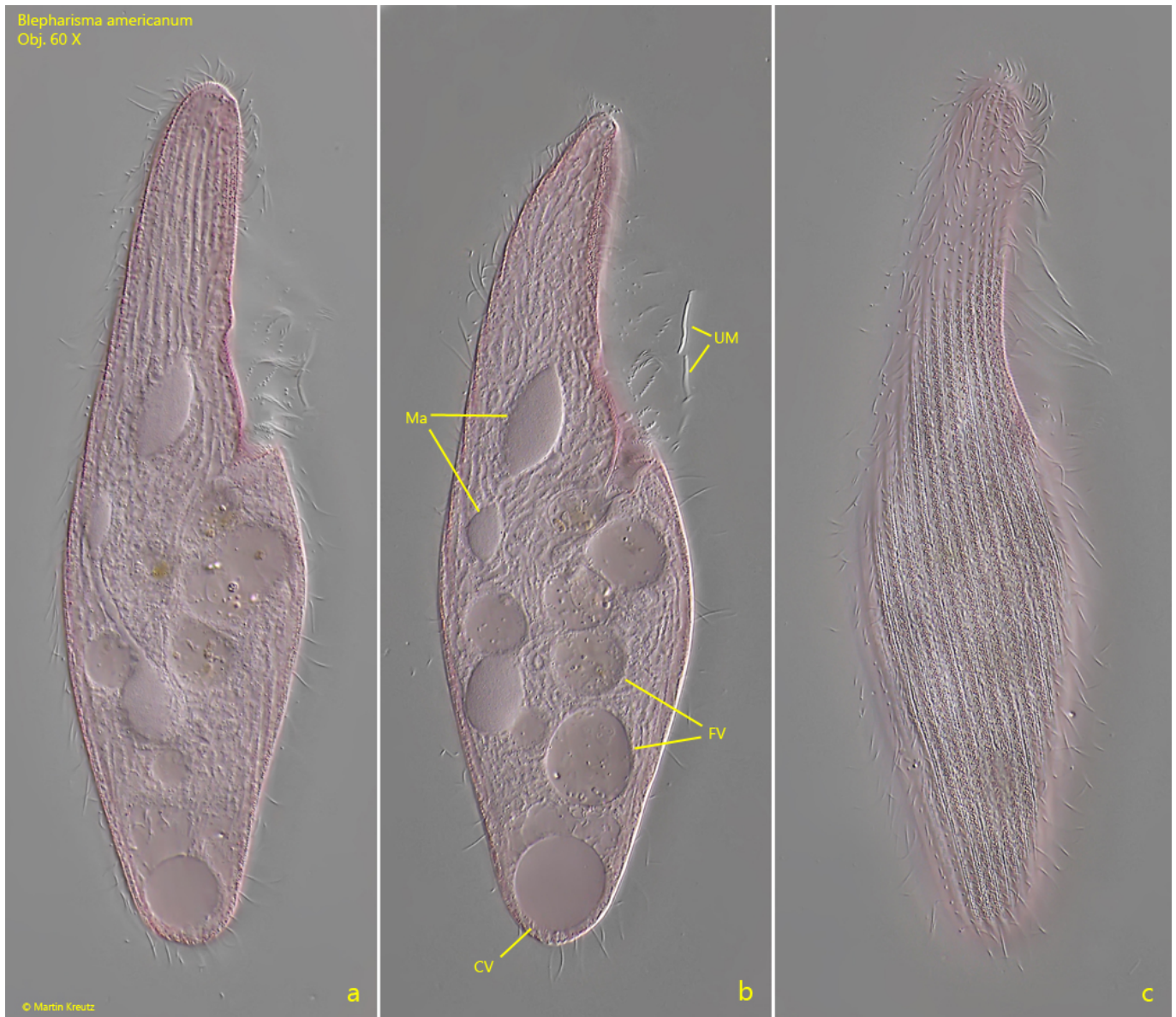
- body long oval, laterally flattened, non-contractile
- length 180-280  $\mu\text{m}$
- pigmentation pink
- pigmentation granules in longitudinal bands
- mouth opening at two fifths of the body length or mid-body
- moniliform macronucleus with 3-8 nodules
- 6-20 small micronuclei adjacent to the nodules of the macronucleus
- contractile vacuole terminal



after Hirshfield, Isquith & Bhandary

### Blepharisma americanum

*Blepharisma americanum* can be distinguished from the similar species *Blepharisma undulans* by the nuclear apparatus. While *Blepharisma americanum* has a moniliform macronucleus with 3-8 nuclear nodules, *Blepharisma undulans* has a binodal macronucleus, which consists of two nuclear parts connected by a filament. Since I was able to detect more than 2 nuclear nodules, *Blepharisma americanum* must be present here. I find *Blepharisma americanum* rarely in the [Simmelried](#), mostly between decomposing plant masses. The intense purple color makes this large ciliate very photogenic.



**Fig. 1 a-c:** *Blepharisma americanum*. L = 190  $\mu$ m. Three focal planes of a freely swimming specimen. CV = contractile vacuole, FV = food vacuoles, Ma = nodules of the moniliform macronucleus, UM = undulating membrane. Obj. 60 X.



**Fig. 2 a-b:** *Blepharisma americanum*. L = 240  $\mu$ m. A second freely swimming specimen from right (a) and from ventral (b). AZM = adorale zone of membranelles, CV = contractile vacuole. Obj. 60 X.

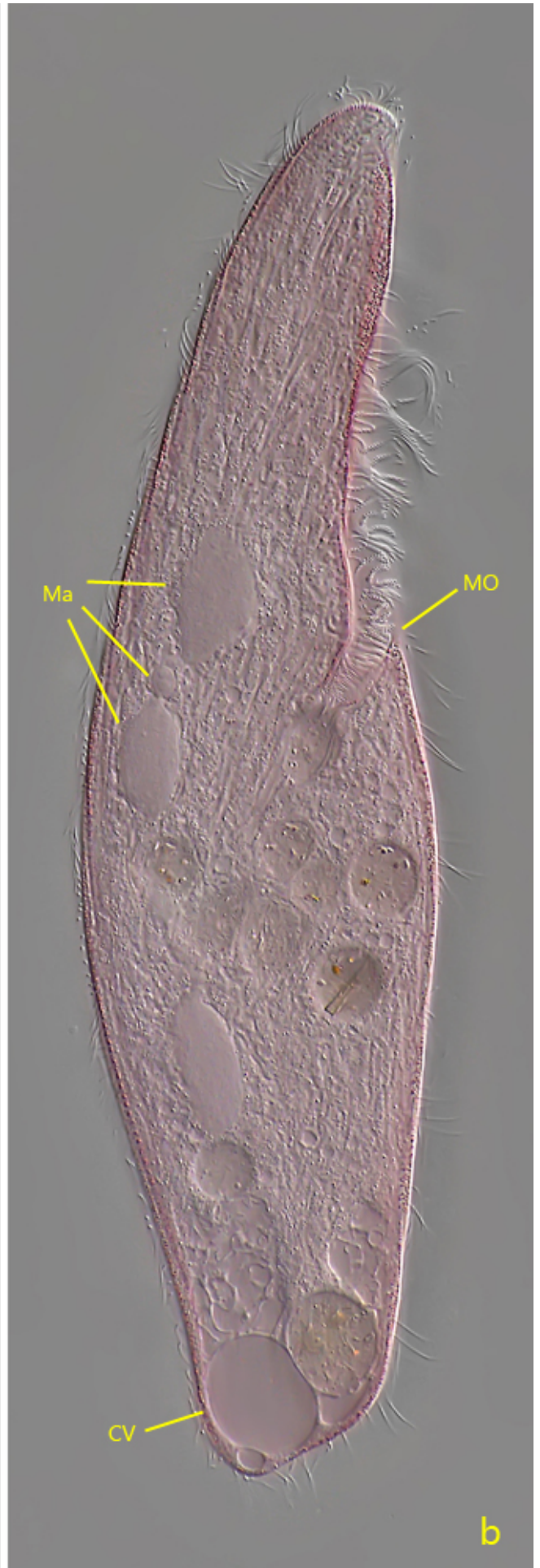


*Blepharisma americanum*  
Obj. 60 X



a

© Martin Kreutz



b



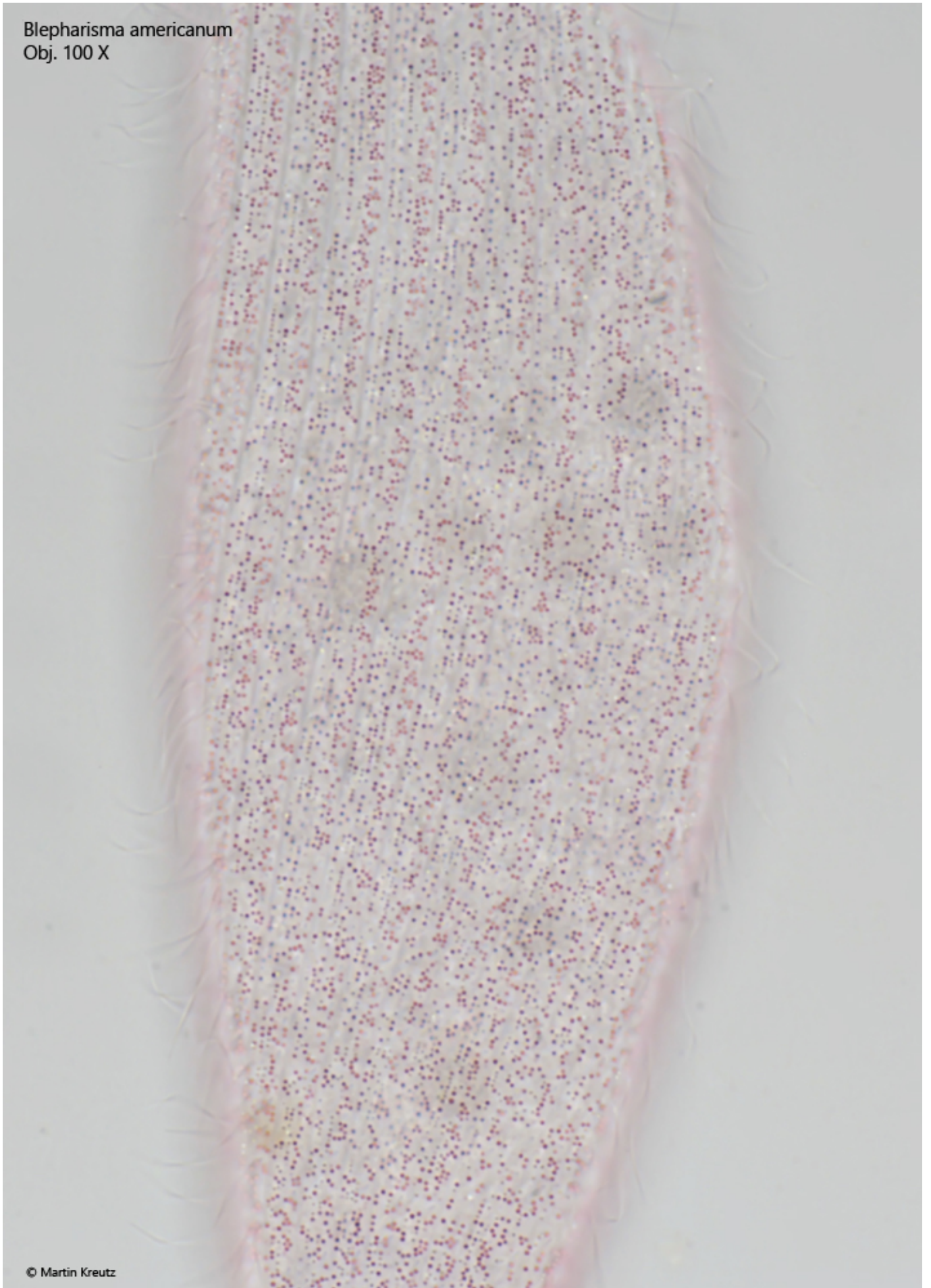
**Fig. 3 a-b:** *Blepharisma americanum*. L = 262  $\mu$ m. A third, slightly squashed specimen. Ma = nodules of the moniliform macronucleus, MO = mouth opening. Obj. 100 X.



**Fig. 4:** *Blepharisma americanum*. The micronuclei (Mi 1-3) are adjacent to the nodules of the moniliform macronucleus (Ma 1-3). Obj. 100 X.



Blepharisma americanum  
Obj. 100 X



© Martin Kreutz

**Fig. 5:** *Blepharisma americanum*. The pink colored granules arranged in the pellicle in brightfield illumination. Obj. 100 X.