

***Bodo saltans* Ehrenberg, 1832**

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

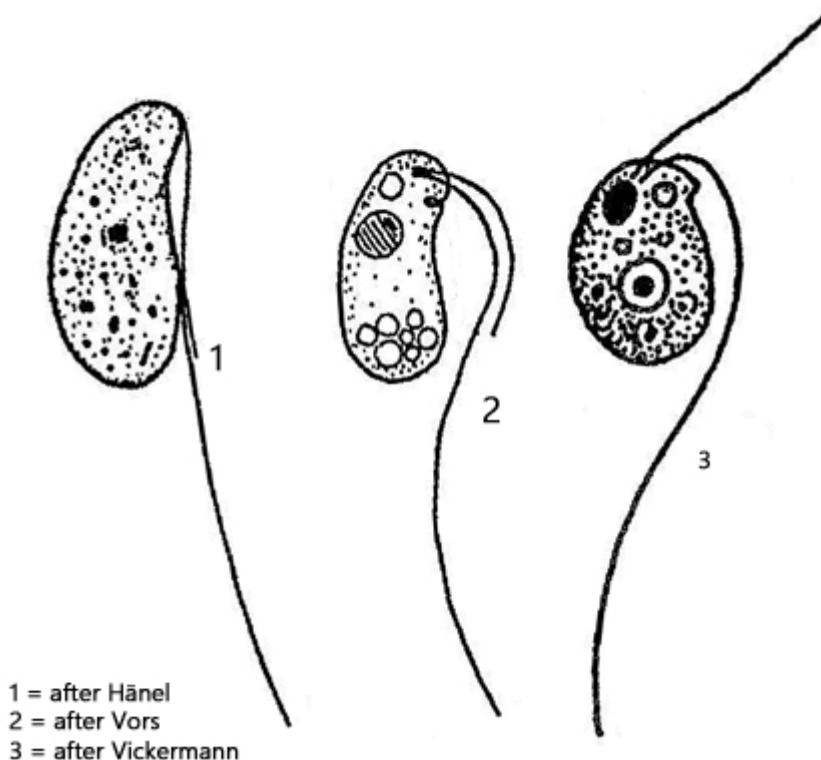
**Synonym:** n.a.

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

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Bodo saltans](#)

**Diagnosis:**

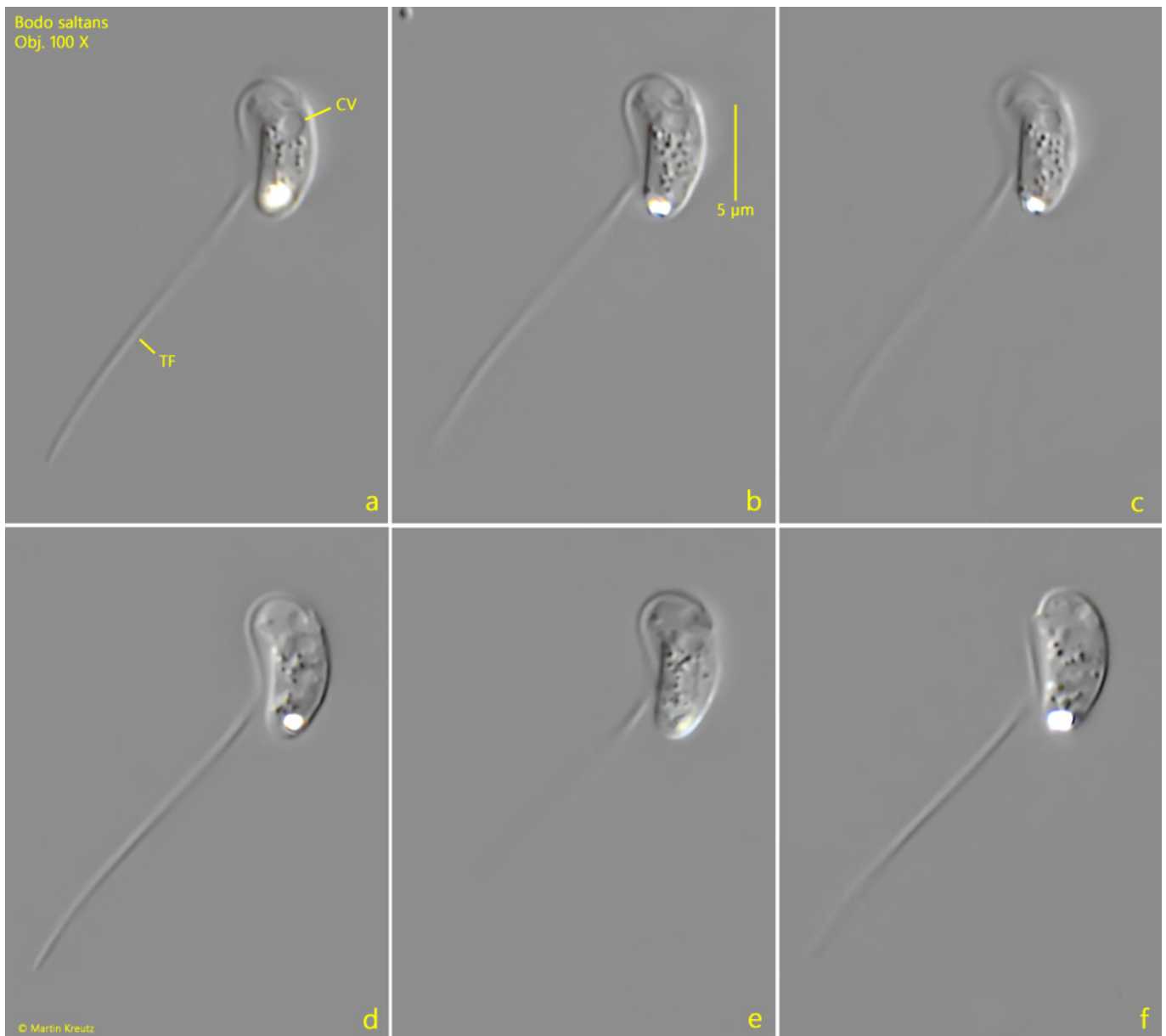
- cells oval or reniform
- length 5–9  $\mu\text{m}$ , width 2–6  $\mu\text{m}$
- one leading flagellum of body length (hard to see)
- one trailing flagellum, 2–3 body length, curved
- contractile vacuole subapical
- spherical nucleus below cell equator



I occasionally find *Bodo saltans* on the floating coverslip, where it can be easily observed. This small flagellate can mainly be recognized by its long trailing flagellum, which forms a sharp curve and touches the body, while the distal part of the flagellum is held more or less straight and spread away from the body (s. fig. 1 a). It is 2–3 times as long as the body. There is also a second swimming flagellum, but it is difficult to see as it often lies flat against the body in a shallow groove.

*Bodo saltans* exhibits a conspicuous, jumping-jerking movement. This is caused by the swimming flagellum, which pops out briefly and then lies flat again. *Bodo saltans* can attach itself to surfaces with the end of its trailing flagellum. Several specimens are often found attached to detritus flakes, but they are then difficult to observe in detail.

*Bodo saltans* belongs to the euglenids and has only a single mitochondrion, which is tubular in shape. In the apical part of the mitochondrion there is a DNA-rich thickening called the kinetoplast. The kinetoplast has a higher density than the surrounding cytoplasm and can sometimes be seen under a light microscope.



**Fig. 1 a-f:** *Bodo saltans*.  $L = 7.7 \mu\text{m}$ . Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen. The trailing flagellum (TF) is strongly curved and touches the body. The shorter swimming flagellum is not visible, as it often lies flat against the body in a shallow groove. CV = contractile vacuole. Obj. 100 X.