

Brachonella cydonia
(Kahl, 1927) Jankowski, 1964

Most likely ID: n.a.

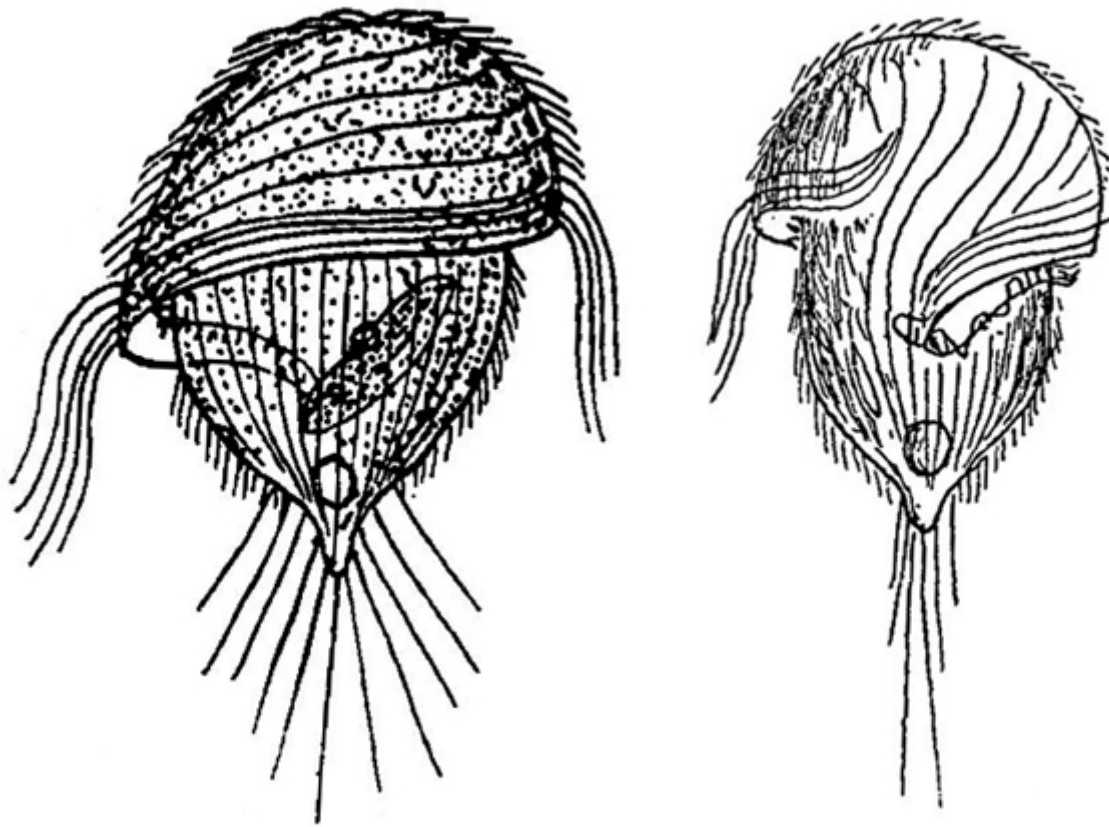
Synonym: *Metopus cydonia*

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Brachonella cydonia](#)

Diagnosis:

- body plump pear-shaped, posteriorly caudate with blunt tip
- apical dome hemispherical
- length 60–80 µm
- adoral zone runs equatorially and encircles body almost completely
- mouth opening in posterior third
- cytoplasm colorless, finely granulated
- macronucleus elongated
- contractile vacuole subterminal
- tuft of caudalcilia, up to body length



after Kahl

Brachonella cydonia

Brachonella cydonia first described as *Metopus cydonia* by Kahl in 1927. Later Jankowski (1964) transferred the species to the genus *Brachonella*. For the genus *Brachonella*, Jankowski defines the following characteristics:

- anterior end (dome) larger than the posterior end.
- the adoral zone describes a helical line when it runs to the mouth opening

I find *Brachonella cydonia* rarely but regularly. So far all findings are from the [Simmelried](#). The species is difficult to photograph, because of the high coverslip sensitivity. Already Kahl noted: "...kollabiert sofort beim Auflegen des Deckglases... (collapses immediately when the coverslip is put on)". I can confirm this behavior, which is why I have not been able to examine any squashed specimen in detail. All specimens shown below were photographed at high layer thickness.

As the only deviation from Kahl's description, I found the macronucleus to be often

spherical, although Kahl himself was not sure if the elongated macronucleus is a constant feature. Kahl describes that the tuft of long caudal cilia can be actively spread. I have not been able to observe this with my specimens photographed swimming. Possibly this process can be seen only in resting specimens.

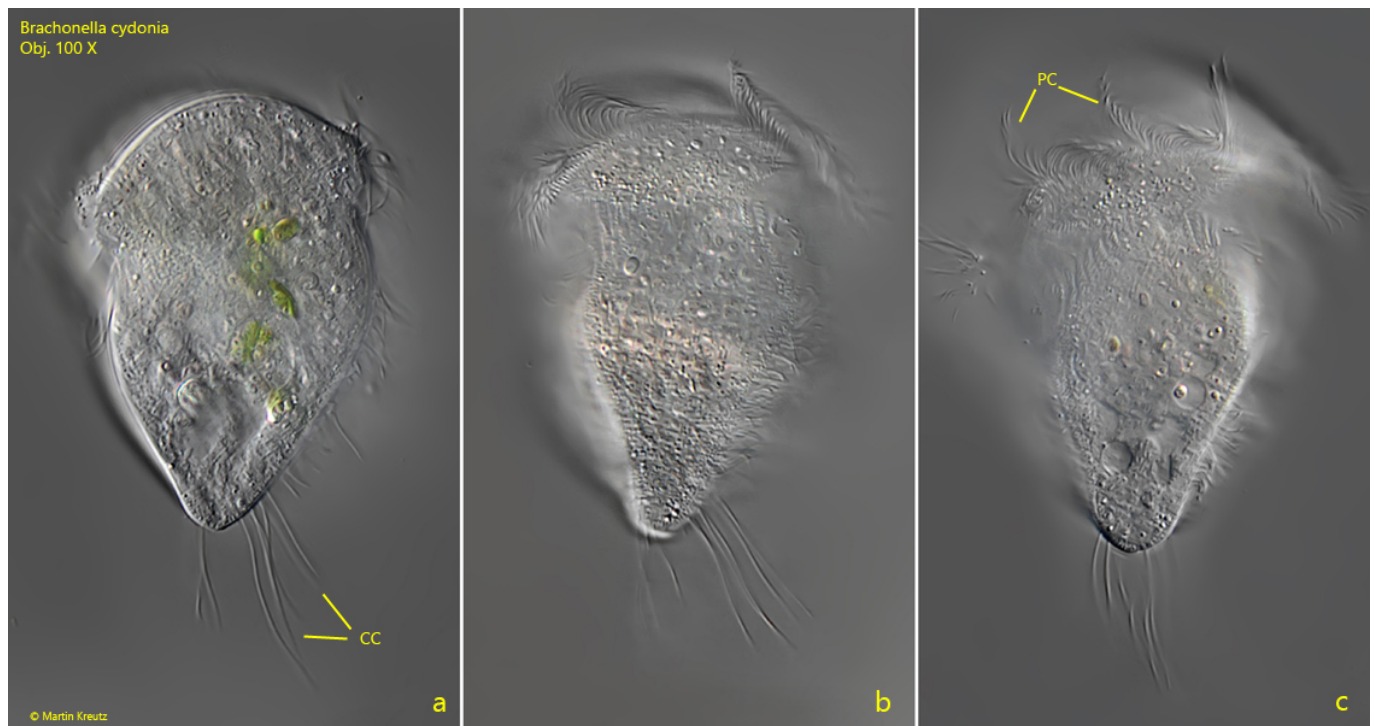


Fig. 1 a-c: *Brachonella cydonia*. L = 76. A freely swimming specimen. CC = caudal cilia, PC = perizonal cilia. Obj. 100 X.

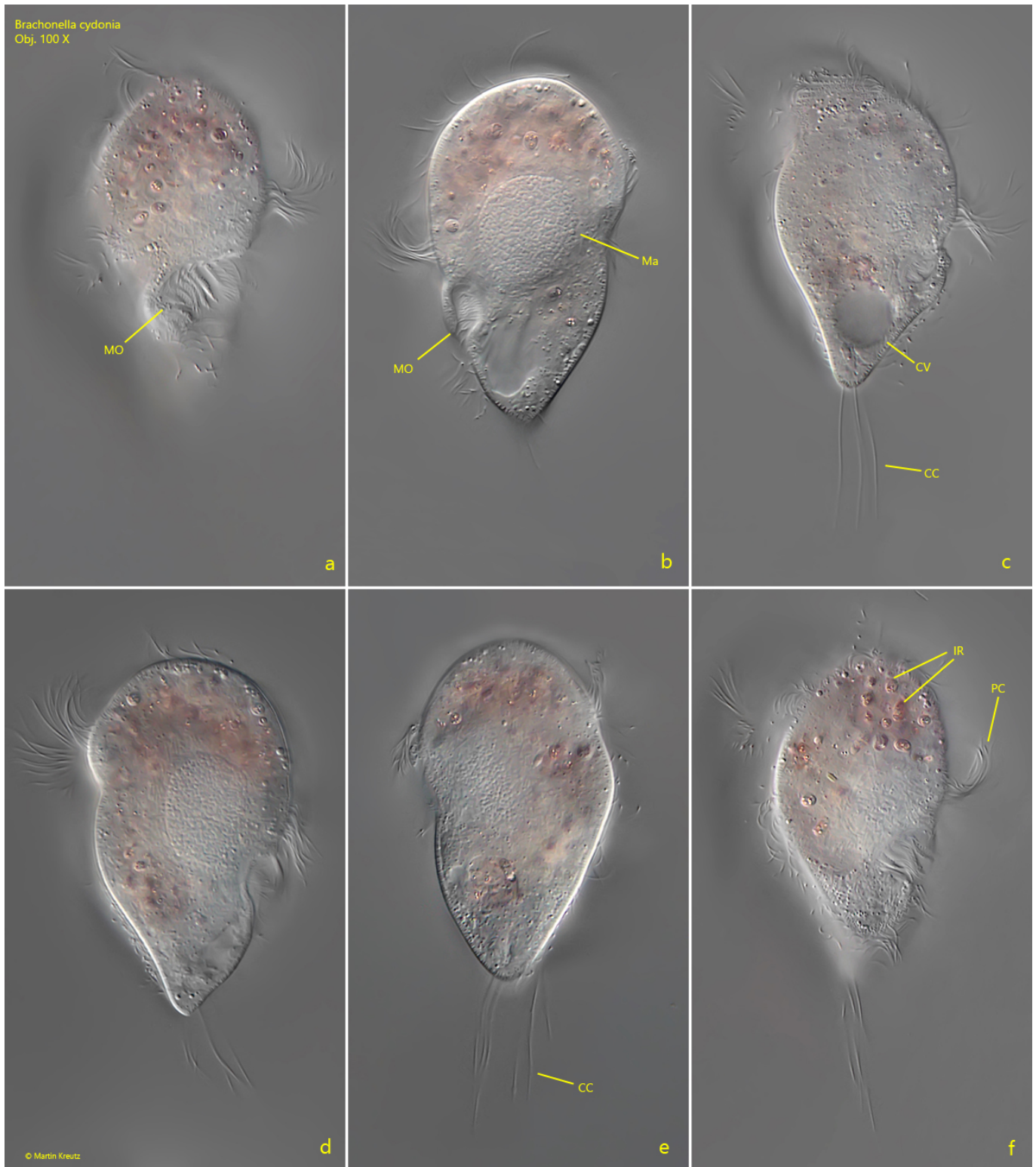


Fig. 2 a-f: *Brachonella cydonia*. L = 74. A second freely swimming specimen. CC = caudal cilia, CV = contractile vacuole, IR = ingested rhodobacteria, Ma = macronucleus, MO = mouth opening, PC = perizonal cilia. Obj. 100 X.

Brachonella cydonia
Obj. 60 X

MO

Ma

a

AZM

b

PC

c

MO

d

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Fig. 3 a-d: *Brachonella cydonia*. L = 77. A damaged specimen that has already shed its caudal cilia due to coverslip pressure. AZM = adoral zone of membranelles, Ma = macronucleus, MO = mouth opening, PC = perizonal cilia. Obj. 100 X.