

***Bresslaua vorax* Kahl, 1931**

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

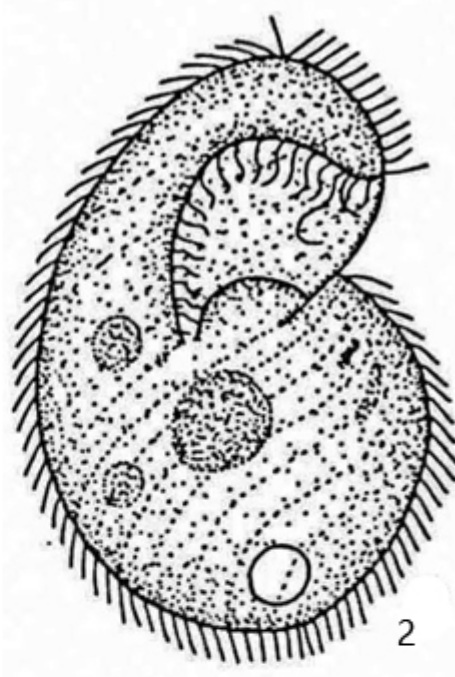
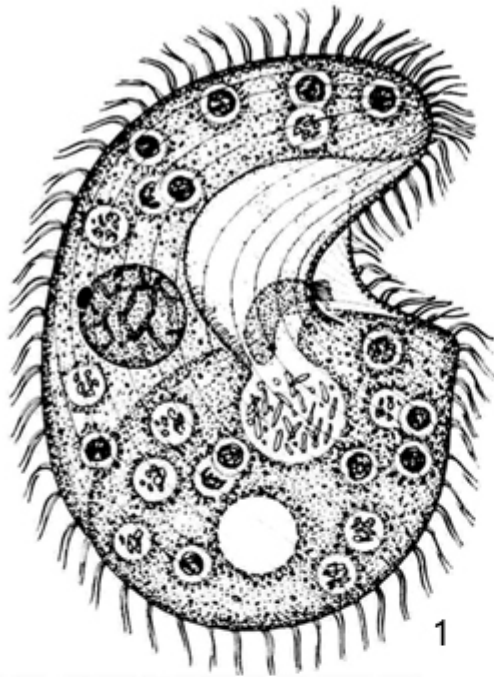
**Synonym:** n.a.

**Sampling location:** Moss

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Bresslaua vorax](#)

**Diagnosis:**

- body broadly oval, laterally slightly flattened
- deeply indented at the mouth opening
- postoral left side saccate
- length 70–120 µm, width 50–80 µm
- macronucleus globular to slightly ellipsoid, nucleolus reticulate
- one micronucleus adjacent to macronucleus, about 3 x 1.5 µm
- mouth opening with a right and left field of polykineties
- extrusomes inconspicuous, 0.8–1 µm long
- ciliary rows consisting of paired cilia
- contractile vacuole almost terminal
- no caudal cilia



1 = after Foissner  
2 = after Lundin & West  
3-5 = after Kahl

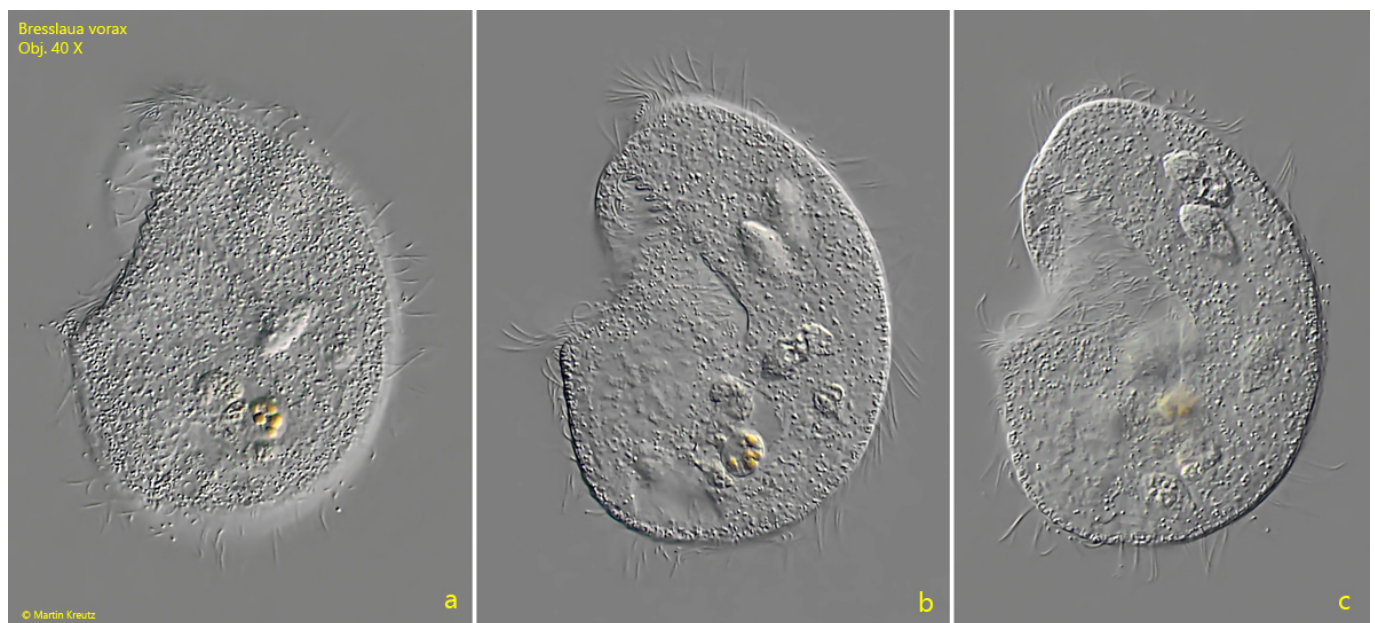
## Bresslaua vorax

I found *Bresslaua vorax* in moss samples that came mainly from trees and walls. If the moss is poured over with rainwater in Petri dishes, large populations of *Bresslaua vorax* occurred in some of the samples. *Bresslaua vorax* has so far been found in mosses, hay infusions and soil samples. Limnetic records has not yet been confirmed.

*Bresslaua vorax* is easily confused with [Colpoda cucullus](#) in terms of size and shape. However, the anterior half of [Colpoda cucullus](#) is much more broadly rounded, the body is kidney-shaped and the mouth opening is smaller. In addition, [Colpoda](#)

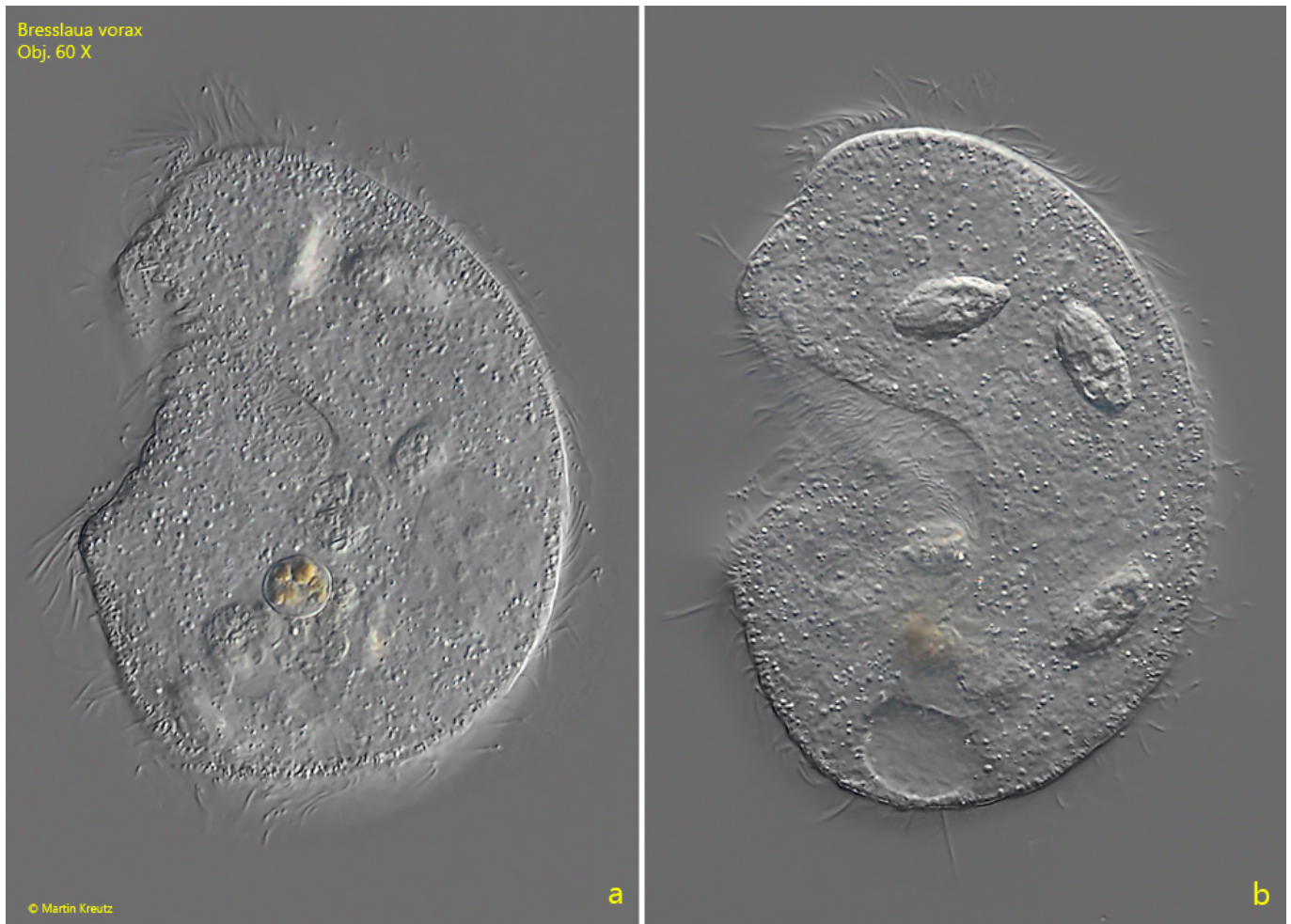
[\*cucullus\*](#) is exclusively feeding on bacteria, whereas *Bresslaua vorax* is a predator of other ciliates (s. fig. 6). In addition, the extrusomes of [\*Colpoda cucullus\*](#) are larger and comma-shaped.

In my populations, the specimens of *Bresslaua vorax* were 80 – 95 µm long. I have not found any larger specimens. However, with good nutrition giant forms up to 250 µm were described by Kahl (1931). The specimens in my population mainly preyed mainly [\*Colpoda steinii\*](#). Some specimens were completely opaque and deformed due to the high number of ingested ciliates. I found transparent specimens of *Bresslaua vorax* only in old samples, with a low concentration of prey ciliates.

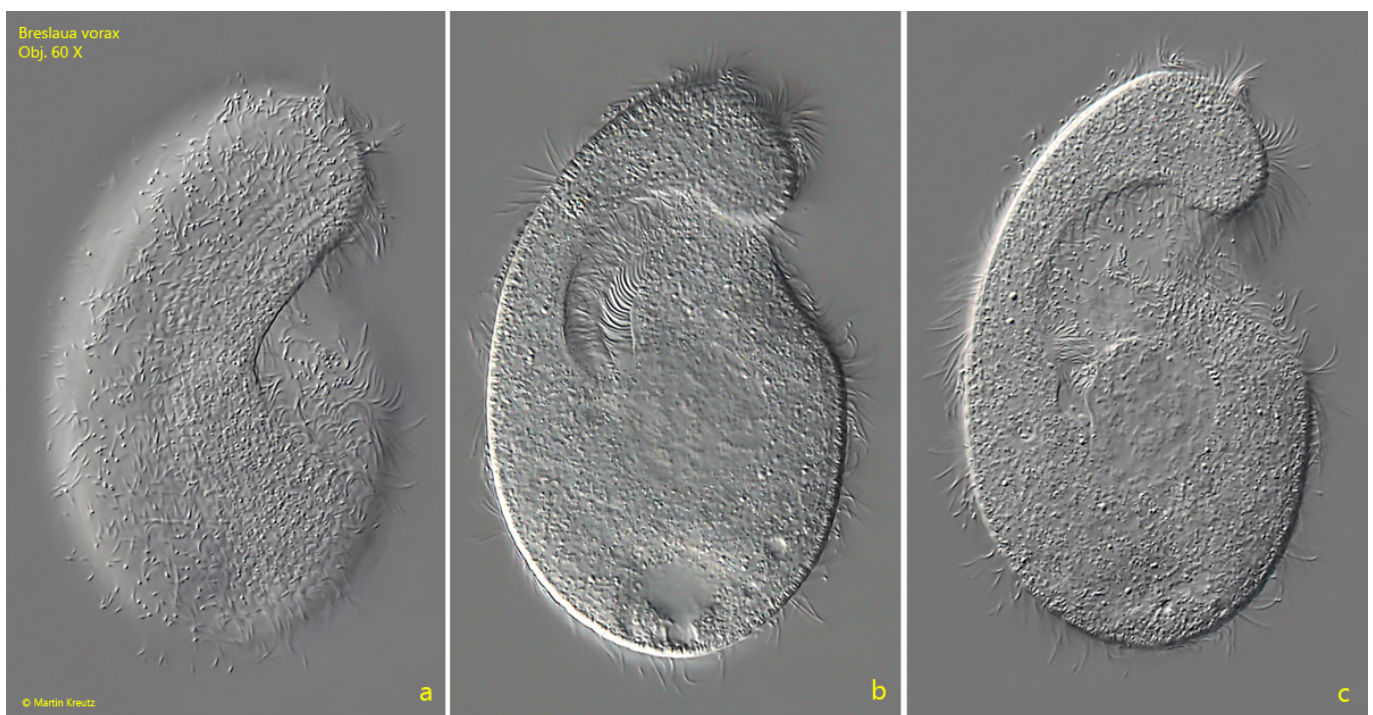


**Fig. 1 a-c:** *Bresslaua vorax*. L = 89 µm. A freely swimming specimen from left. Obj. 40 X.





**Fig. 2 a-b:** *Bresslaua vorax*. L = 89  $\mu$ m. The same specimen as shown in fig. 1 a-c at higher magnification. Obj. 60 X.



**Fig. 3 a-c:** *Bresslaua vorax*. L = 94  $\mu$ m. A freely swimming specimen from right.



Obj. 60 X.

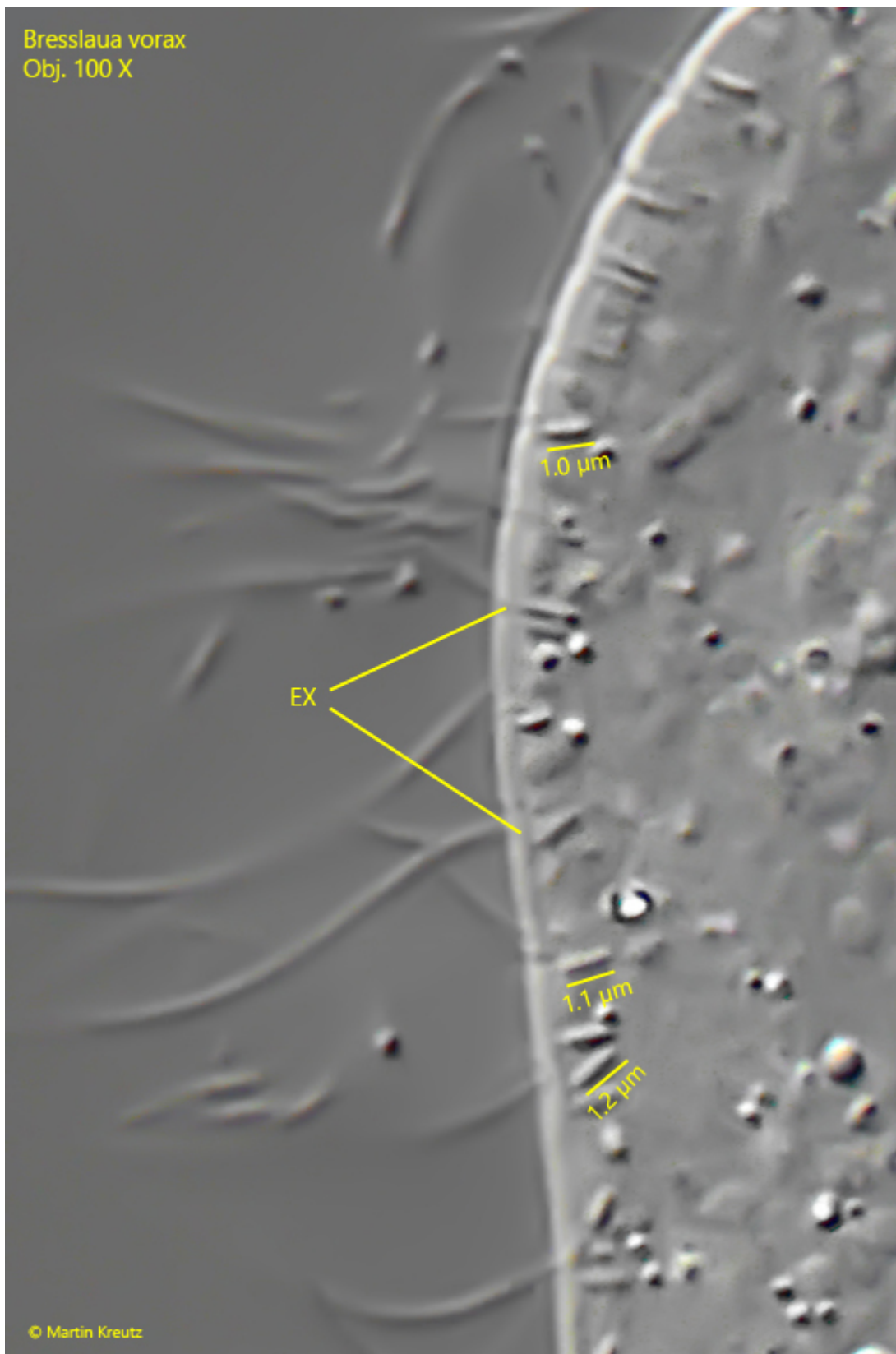


**Fig. 4 a-b:** *Bresslaua vorax*. L = 94  $\mu$ m. Two focal planes of the slightly squashed specimen as shown in fig. 3 a-c. Note the curved oral polykinetid of the left side (LOP). CV = contractile vacuole, EX = extrusomes, Ma = macronucleus with reticulate nucleolus, Mi? = probably the micronucleus. Obj. 100 X



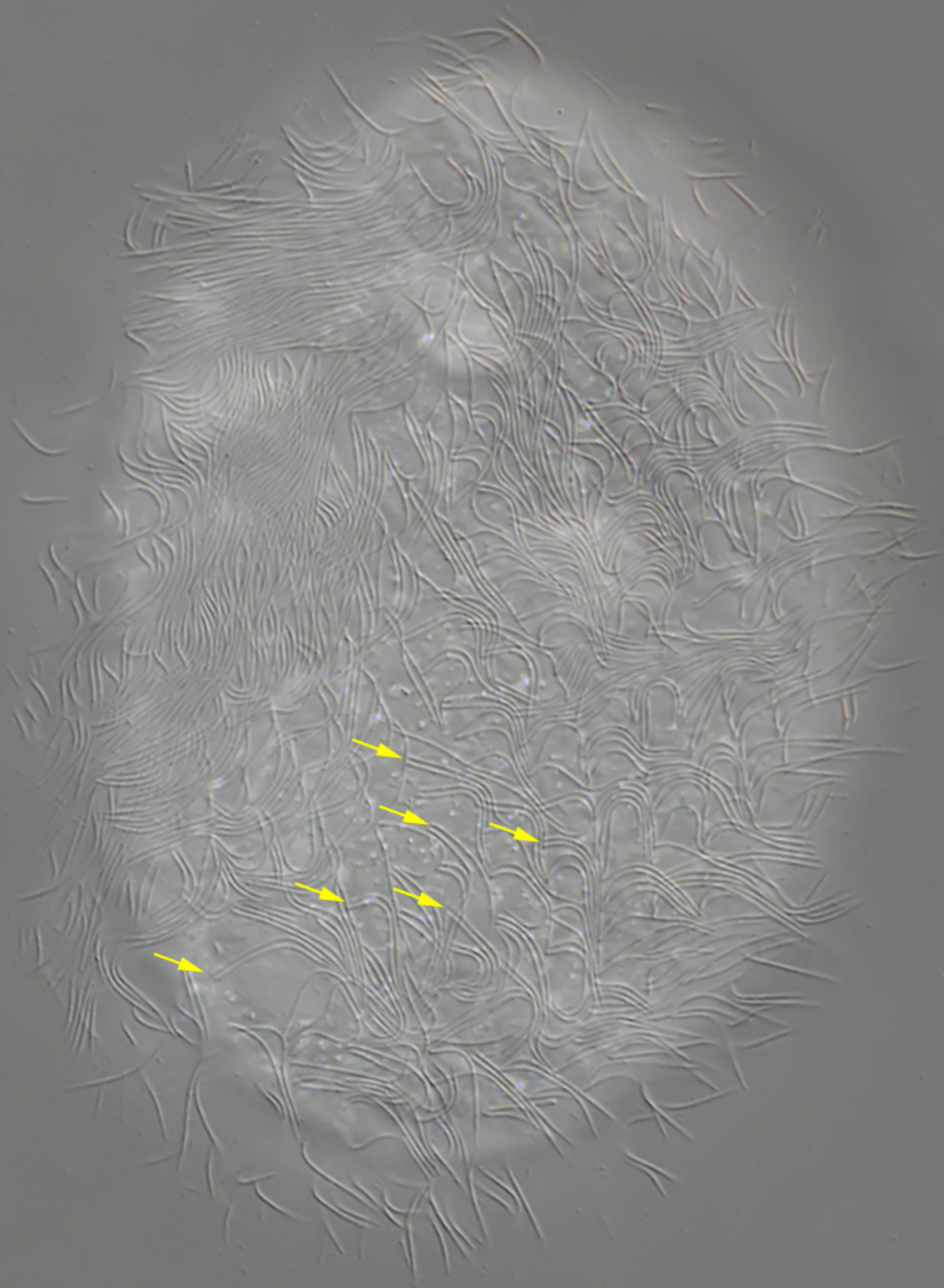
**Fig. 5:** *Bresslaua vorax*. A strongly squashed specimen. Note the ingested ciliates (IC). EX = extrusomes, Ma = macronucleus with reticulate nucleolus, Nuc = nucleolus. Obj. 100 X.





**Fig. 6:** *Bresslaua vorax*. The extrusomes (EX) with a length of 1-1.2  $\mu\text{m}$  in detail. Obj. 100 X.

Bresslaua vorax  
Obj. 100 X



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**Fig. 7:** *Bresslaua vorax*. Focal plane on the ciliation of a strongly squashed specimen. Note the paired cilia (arrows) of the somatic ciliation. Obj. 100 X.