Cephalodella exigua Gosse, 1886

Most likely ID: n.a.

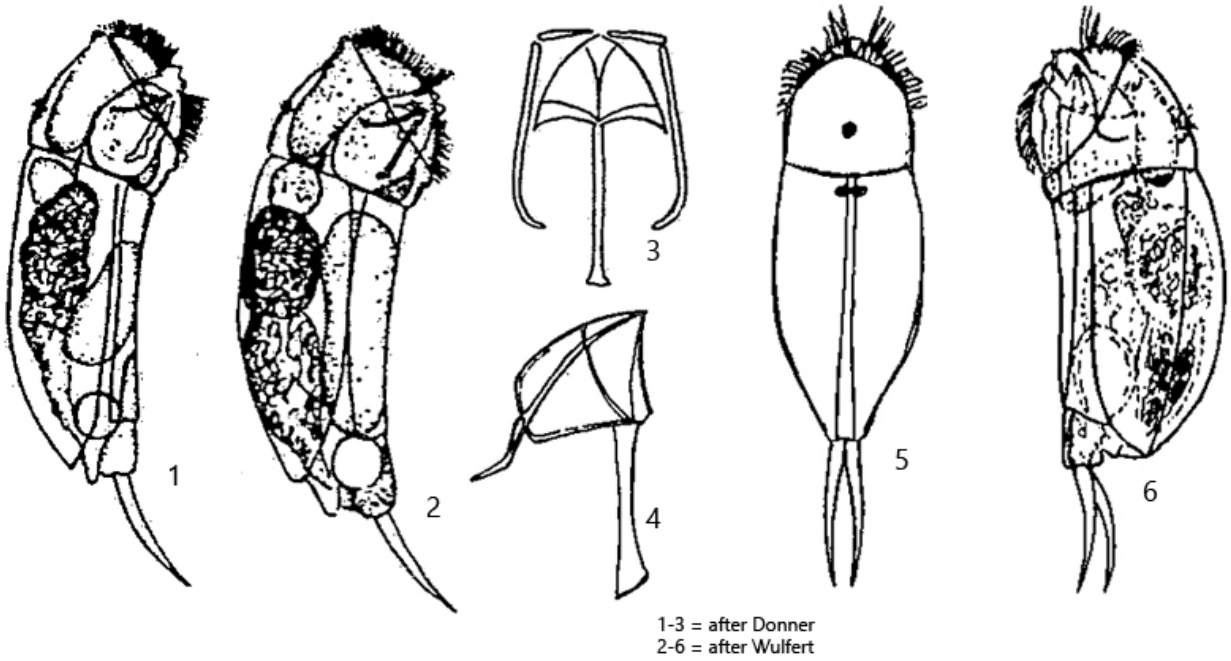
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Bussenried, Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Cephalodella exigua*

Diagnosis:

- body stout, dorsally curved, ventrally almost straight
- length 90–132 µm (with toes)
- head narrower than body
- end of fulcrum is bent upwards
- lateral cleft widened posteriorly
- corona oblique without lips
- ganglion large and saccate with two eyespots at posterior end (visible in dorsal view)
- retrocerebral organ absent
- toes thin (20–32 µm), slightly ventrally curved with pointed ends
- foot short and conical shaped
- caudal antenna present



Cephalodella exigua

So far I have found *Cephalodella exigua* in the Bussenried and in the Simmelried in samples of decomposing plant material. I recognize *Cephalodella exigua* mainly by the thin toes, which are slightly curved ventrally and pointed at the end. The two cervical eyespots (appearing as one eyespot in lateral view) are located on the cerebral ganglion, which has an almost rectangular shape (s. fig. 2 a-b). The corona is clearly oblique and the stomach is golden brown or orange-brown in color. The stomach of the similar species *Cephalodella auriculata* is colored in the same way, but can be distinguished from *Cephalodella exigua* by its stout body shape and the broader head. In addition, the toes of *Cephalodella auriculata* are more curved.

More images and information on *Cephalodella exigua*: Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-*Cephalodella exigua*

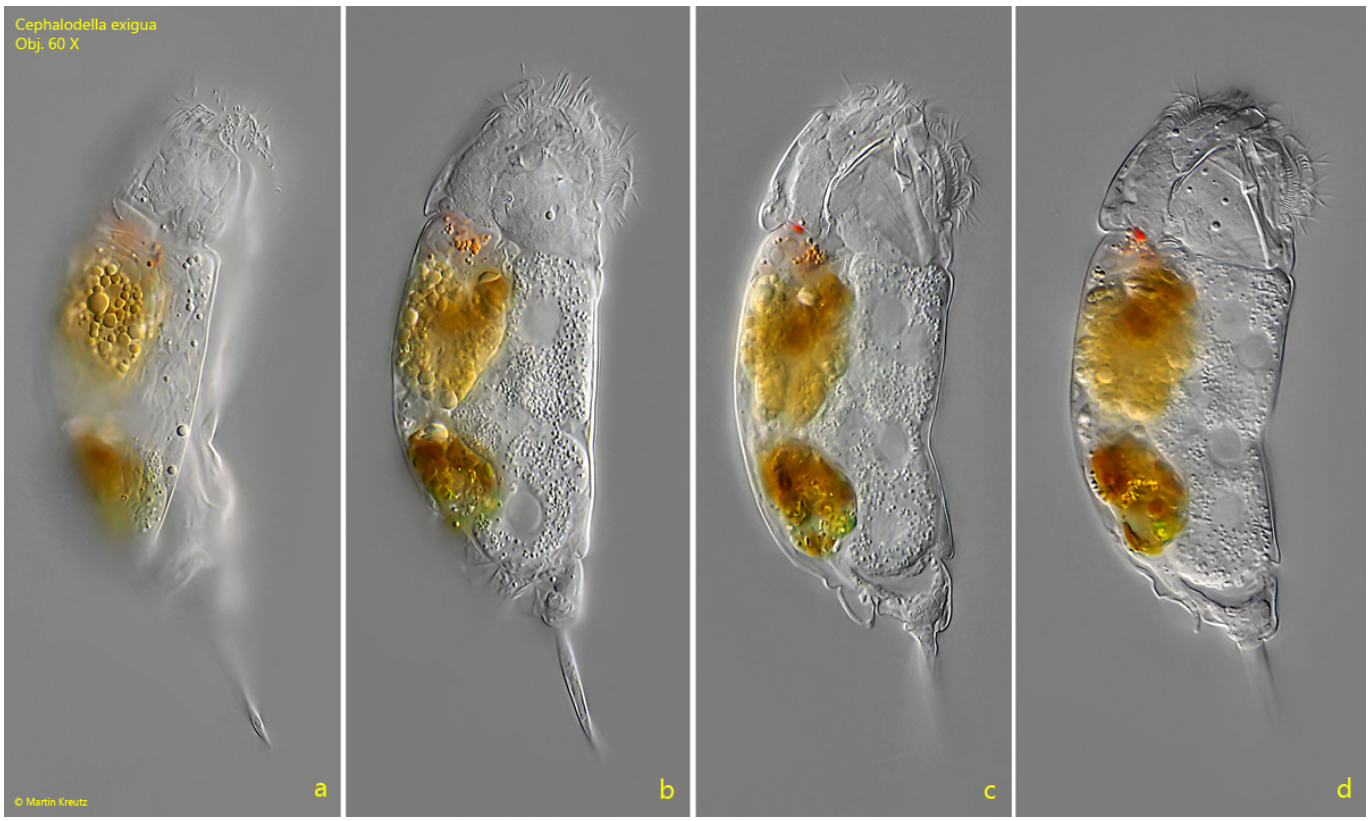


Fig. 1 a-d: *Cephalodella exigua*. L = 130 µm (with toes). A freely swimming specimen from right. Obj. 60 X.



Fig. 2 a-b: *Cephalodella exigua*. L = 130 µm (with toes). The squashed specimen as shown in fig. 1 a-d. CG = cerebral ganglion, ES = eyespot, FT = foot, Int =intestine, St = stomach, TO = toes, TR = trophi, Vit = vitellarium. Obj. 60 X.



Fig. 3 a-b: *Cephalodella exigua*. L = 132 µm (with toes). A second, slightly squashed specimen from right. Note the caudal antenna (CA) at the base of the toes. The lateral cleft (LC) is widened to the posterior end. Obj. 100 X.