

***Cephalodella forficula* Ehrenberg, 1838**

Most likely ID: n.a.

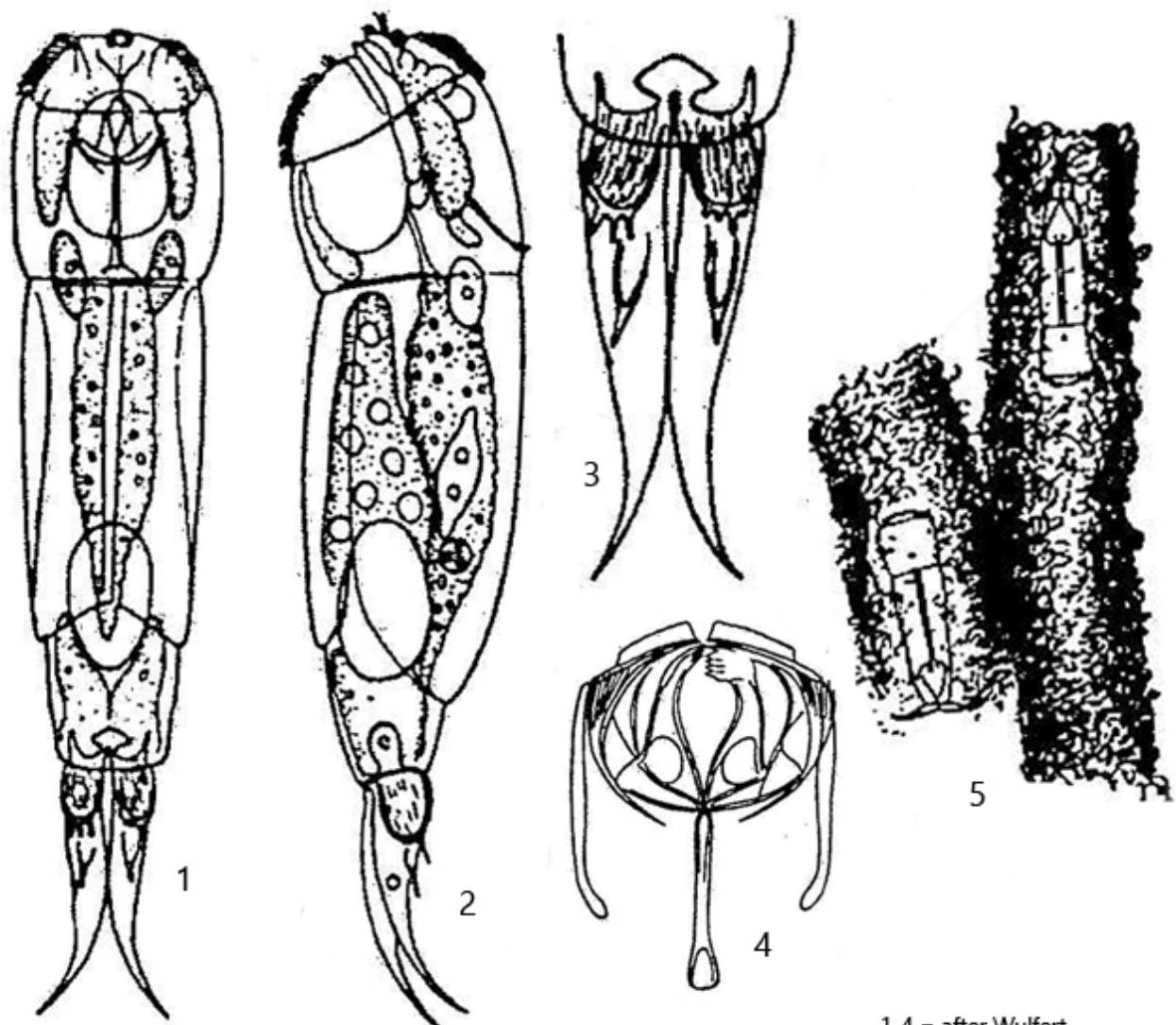
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [*Cephalodella forficula*](#)

Diagnosis:

- body almost cylindrical, elongated, slightly compressed laterally
- length 160–425 µm
- corona ventrally oriented
- two adjacent eyespots with one lens
- toes commonly bent dorsally
- toes with a transverse row of 2–6 short spine and a longer spine below
- tube-dwelling species, tubes built up from detritus



1-4 = after Wulfert
5 = after Donner

Cephalodella forficula

So far I have only found *Cephalodella forficula* in the [Simmelried](#). The species was very common until 2011. The long, brownish tubes were often found on the walls of the sample jars. I did not find any more specimens after 2011.

Cephalodella forficula is the only species within the genus *Cephalodella* that lives in self-constructed tubes. These tubes are built from detritus. The parallel sided tubes have a diameter of 60-70 μm and covered with a thick layer of detritus (s. fig. 6 a-b). Donner (1966) gives the diameter of the tubes as 80 μm .

When disturbed, the specimens leave the tubes and can be observed swimming freely. The specimens are easily recognized by the thick, dorsally curved toes, which bear conspicuous spines (s. fig. 4) and by the apical eyespot with lens (s. fig.

3). The spines on the dorsal side of the toe are assembled as a transverse row of 2-6 short spines and a single longer spine below. The transverse row always consisted of 4 spines in the specimens of my population. The eyespot appears solitary in lateral view (s fig. 3), but it is two eyespots lying close together below a common lens. However, this arrangement can only be recognized in apical view.

Further images and information on *Cephalodella forficula*: [Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-Cephalodella forficula](#)

Cephalodella forficula
Obj. 60 X



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Fig. 1: *Cephalodella forficula*. L = 240 μ m. A freely swimming specimen from right.
Obj. 60 X.

Cephalodella forficula
Obj. 60 X

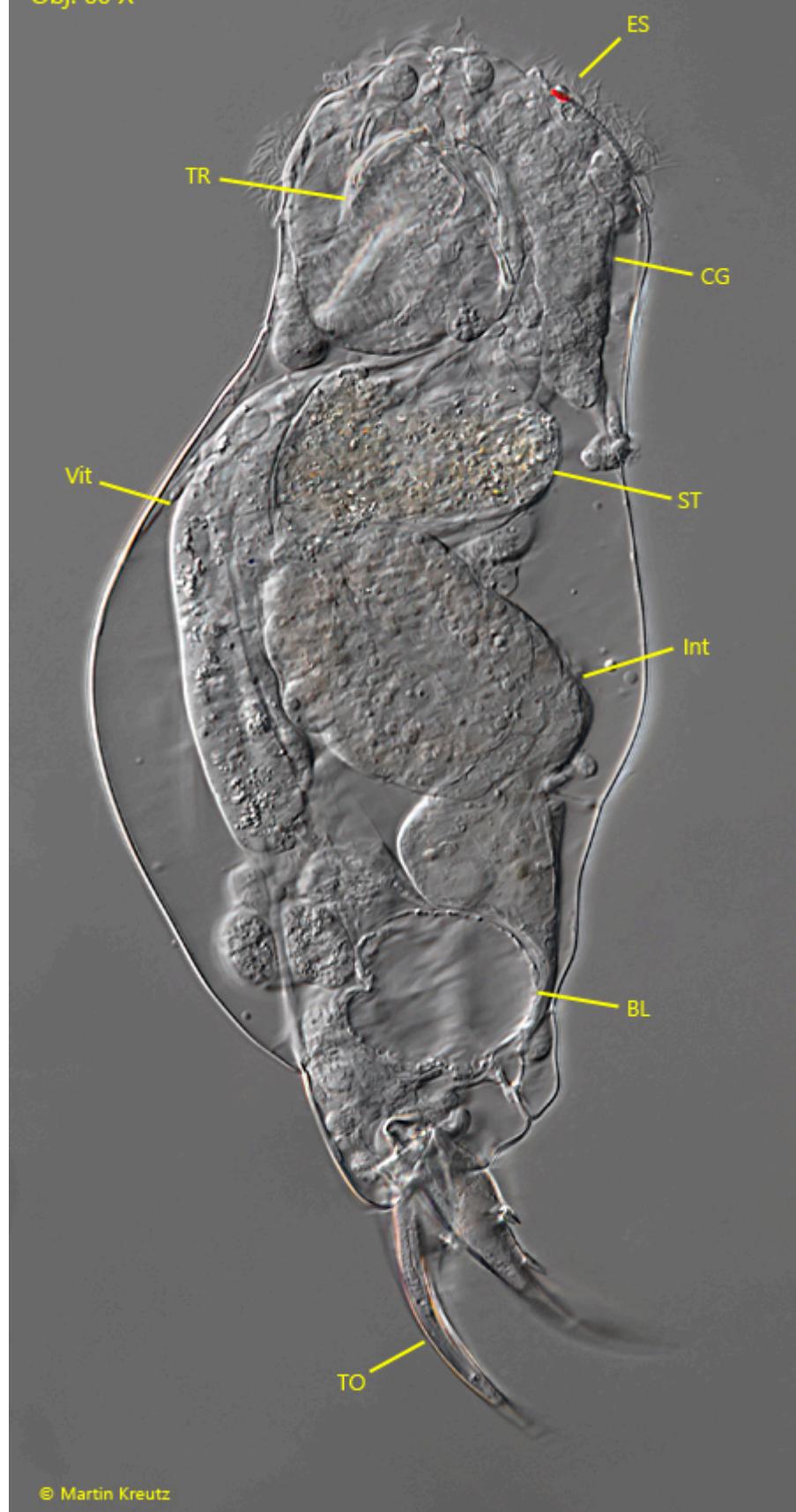


Fig. 2: *Cephalodella forficula*. L = 240 μ m. The slightly squashed specimen as shown in fig. 1 from left. BL = bladder, CG = central ganglion, ES = eyespot with

lens, Int = intestine, ST = stomach, TO = toes, Vit = vitellarium. Obj. 60 X.

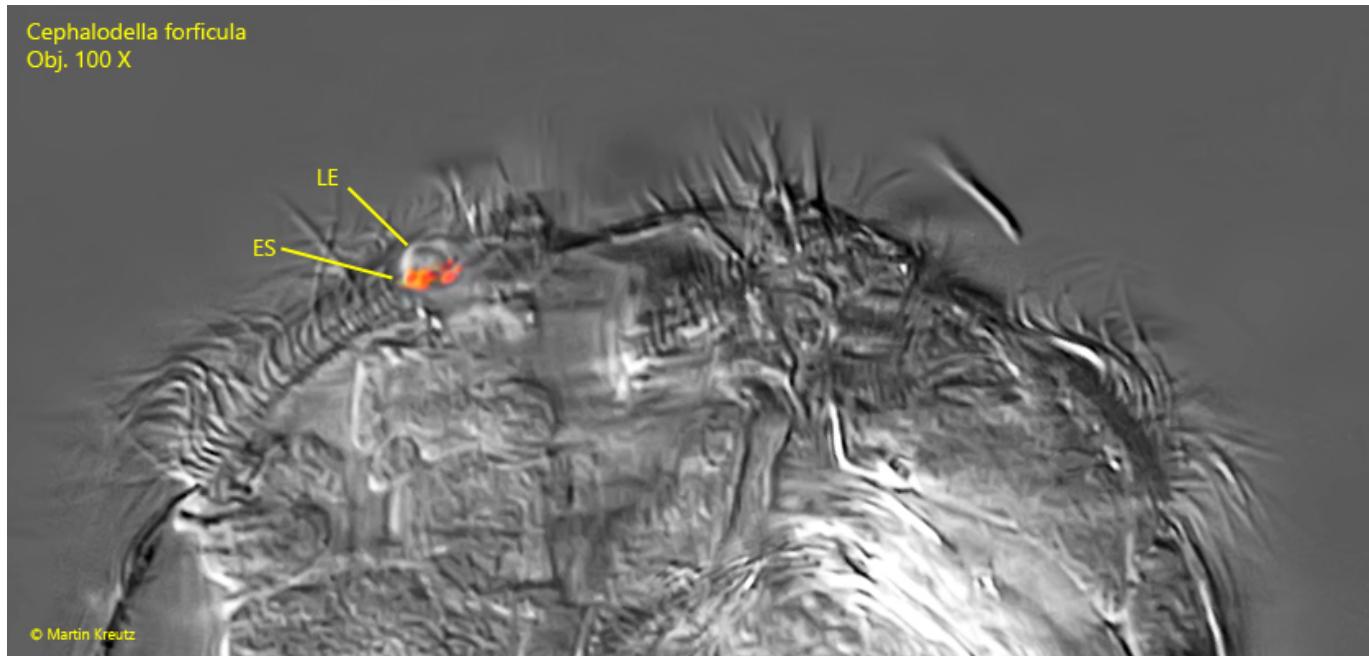


Fig. 3: *Cephalodella forficula*. The eyespot (ES) with lens (LE) in detail. The eyespot is biparted, what is only visible in apical view. Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 4: *Cephalodella forficula*. The dorsally bent toes of a squashed specimen in detail. The toes of this specimen are 56 μ m long with a transverse row of several short spines (SS) and a longer single spine (SS) below. Obj. 100 X.

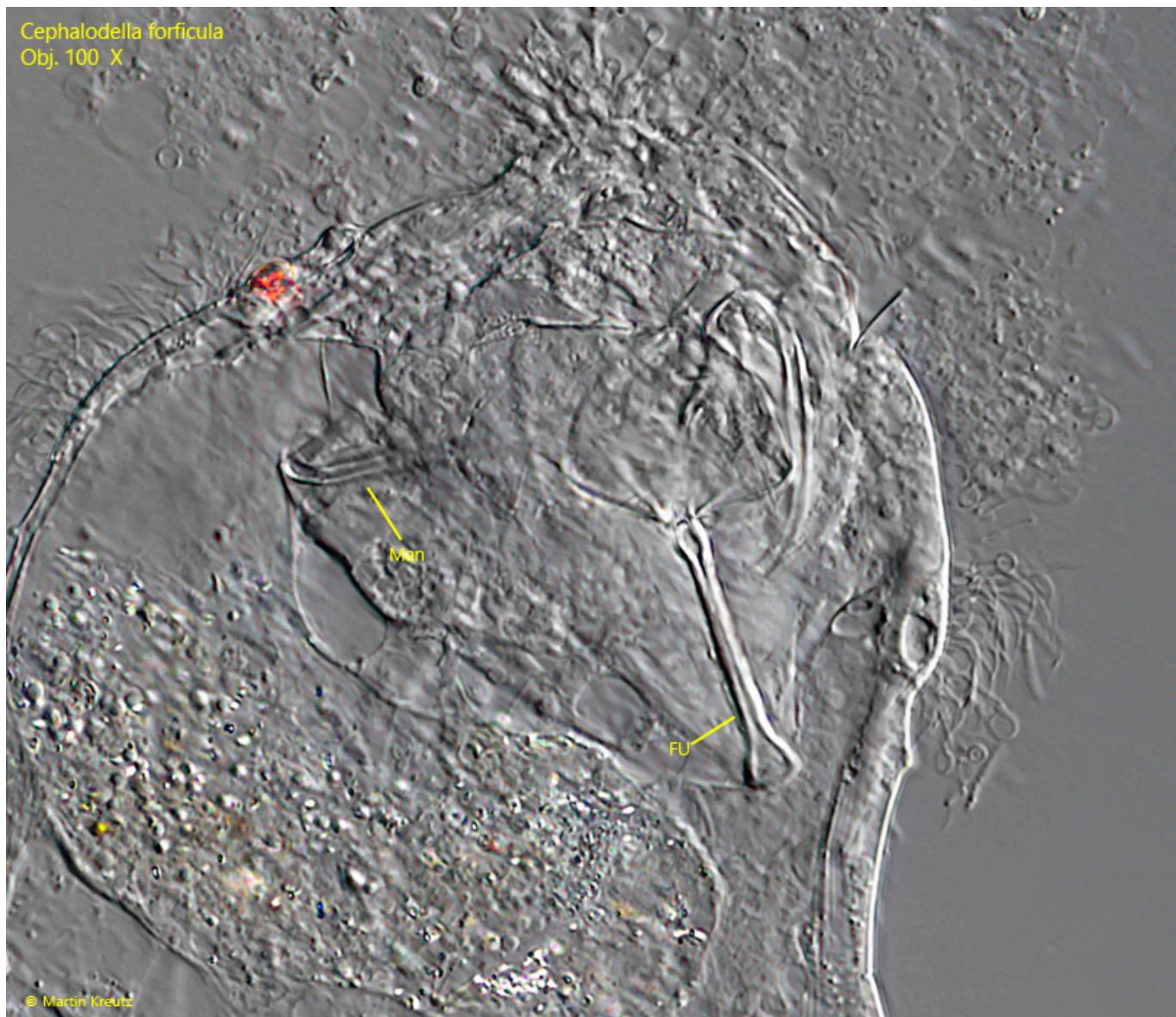


Fig. 5: *Cephalodella forficula*. The trophi in a squashed specimen. FU = fulcrum, Man = manubrium. Obj. 100 X.

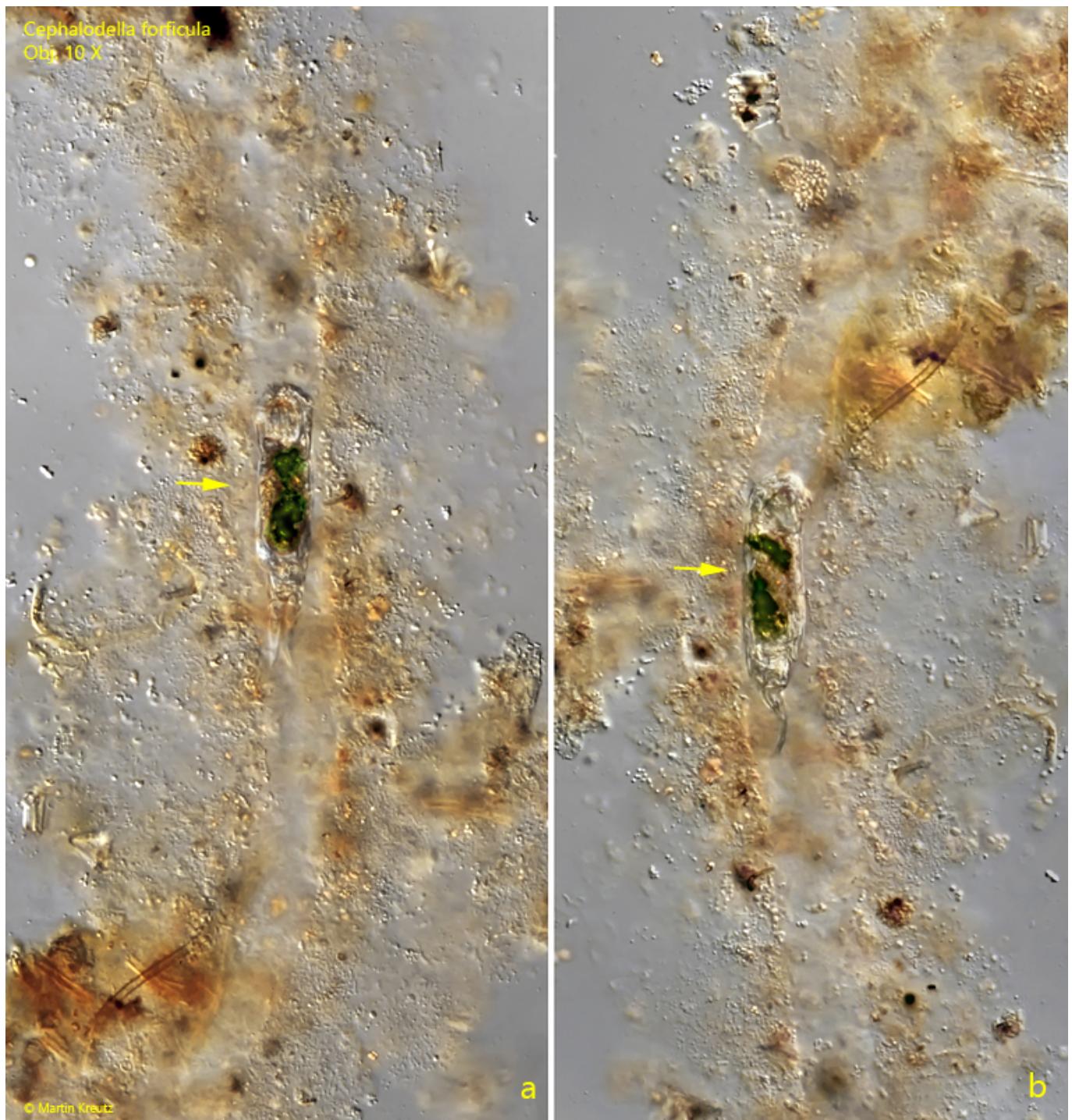


Fig. 6 a-b: *Cephalodella forficula*. A specimen (arrows) in a self-constructed tube constructed of detritus from dorsal (a) and from right (b). The diameter of the tube is 60–65 µm. Obj. 10 X.