

***Cephalodella gibboides* Wulfert, 1950**

Most likely ID: n.a.

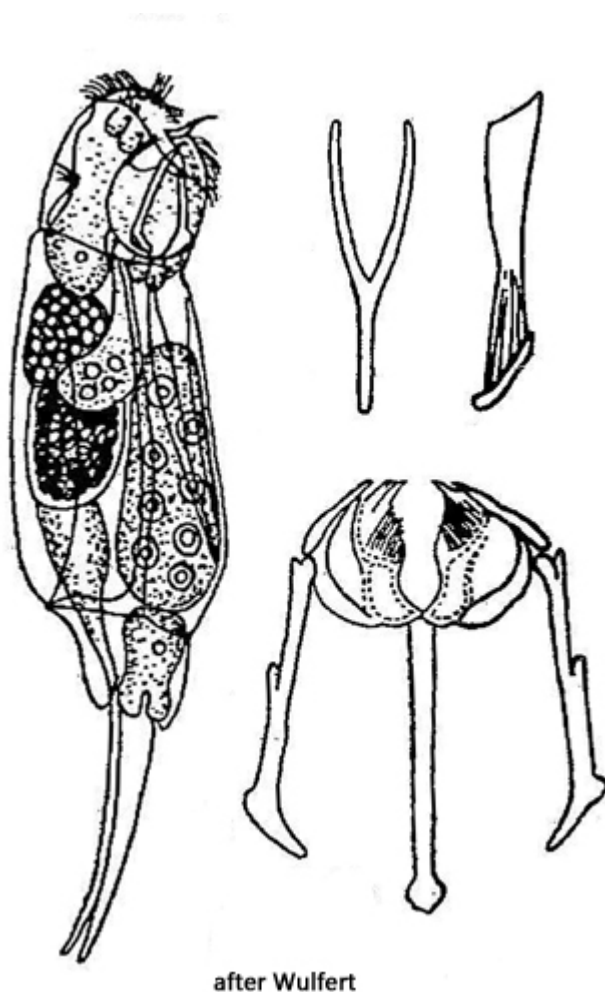
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Pond of the convent Hegne](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Cephalodella gibboides](#)

Diagnosis:

- body elongated, parallel-sided, transparent
- length 184-206 μm
- double frontal eyespot
- trophi with Y-shaped, joined pleural rods
- large cerebral ganglion (reaches the neck)
- gastric glands with oil droplets
- stomach yellow or yellow greenish due to ingested algae
- toes about 50 μm long, slightly dorsally curved



Cephalodella gibboides

In July 2024 I found a few specimens of *Cephalodella gibboides* in the [pond of the convent Hegne](#). This species is very close to *Cephalodella gibba*. A differentiation is only possible by close investigation of the trophi, because *Cephalodella gibboides* has joined pleural rods, which thus appear Y-shaped.

Apart from the original description by Wulfert (1950), there seem to be very few records and descriptions of this species. According to Wulfert, *Cephalodella gibboides* should have a double frontal eye. However, the specimens of my population lacked this frontal eye. I could only detect a few red granules in the forehead region. This is actually an indication that the identification is not correct. However, I could clearly recognize the joined pleural rods in the trophi (s. figs. 4 and 5 a-b). I consider this feature to be decisive, as there is only one other species within the genus *Cephalodella* with joined pleural rods ([Cephalodella wrighti](#)), which has a completely different body shape. In addition, the specimens in my population were about 125 µm long, which is 30 % smaller than stated by Wulfert.

Since only very few finds and descriptions of *Cephalodella gibboides* are available, little is

known about the variability of this species. Therefore, I stick to the identification as *Cephalodella gibboides*, mainly due to the joined pleural rods and the long, slightly dorsally curved toes, as drawn by Wulfert (s. drawing above).



Fig. 1 a-b: *Cephalodella gibboides*. L = 128 μ m. A freely swimming specimen from left. Obj. 60 X.

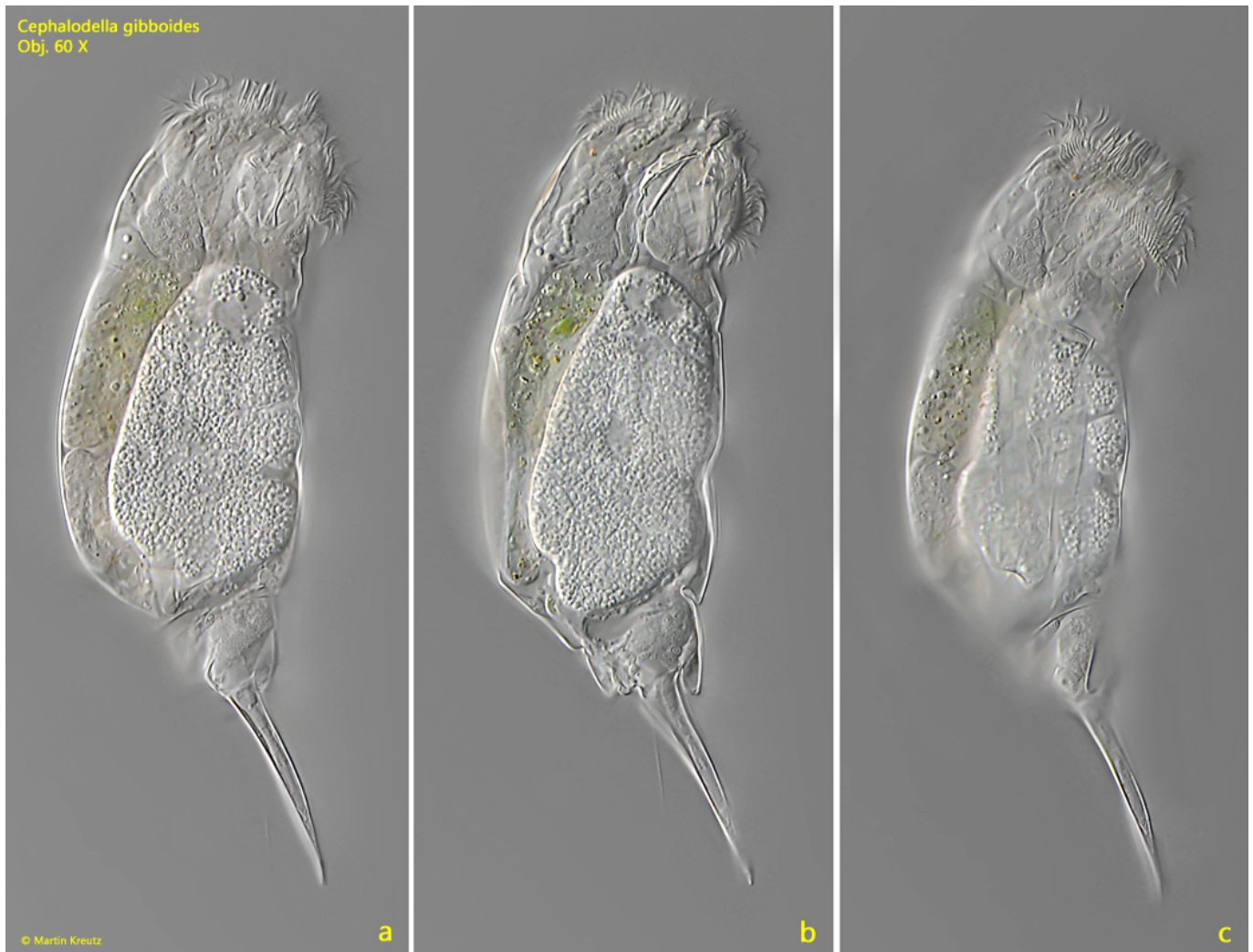


Fig. 2 a-c: *Cephalodella gibboides*. L = 125 μ m. A second freely swimming specimen from right. Obj. 60 X.

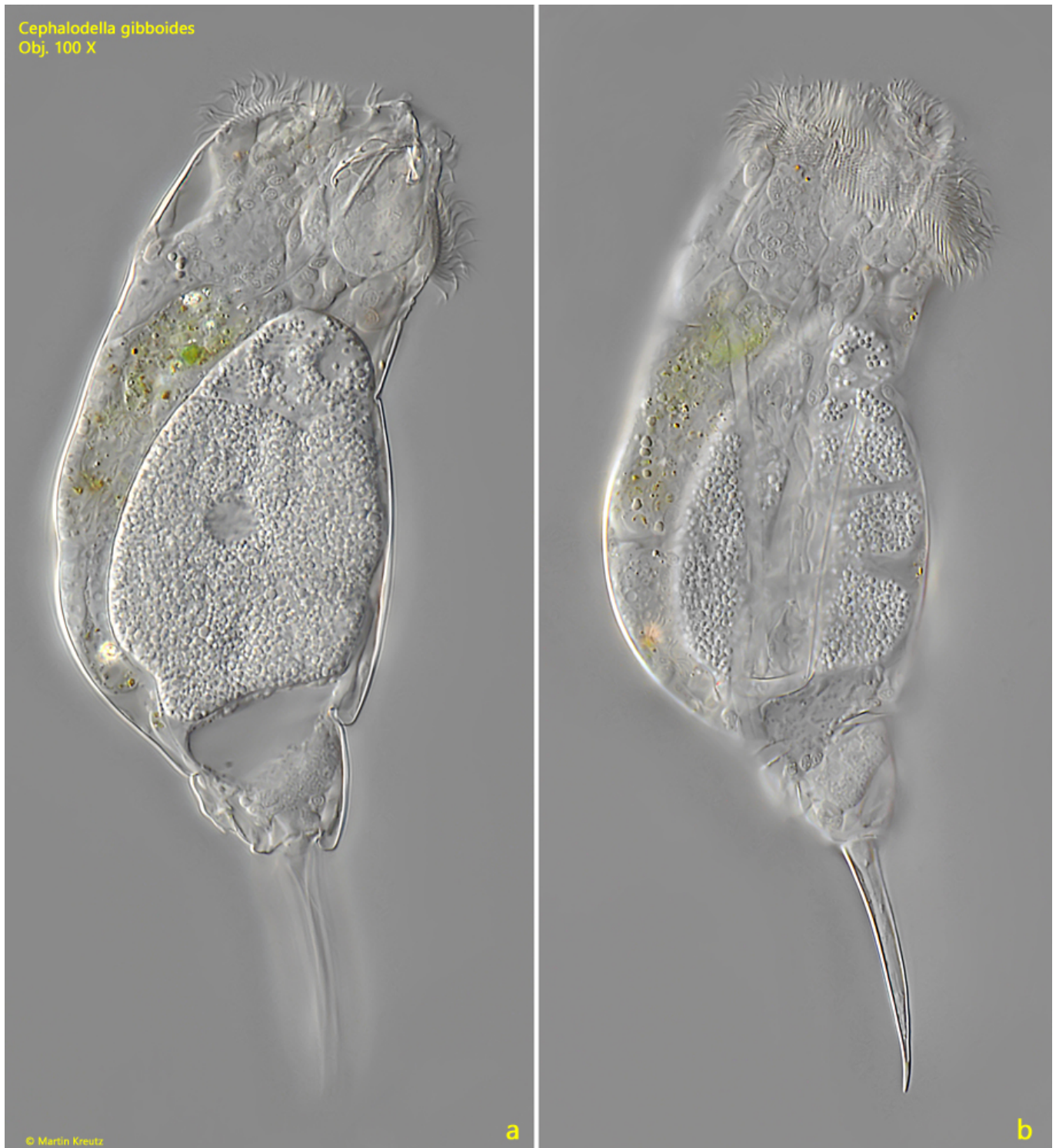


Fig. 3 a-b: *Cephalodella gibboides*. L = 125 μ m. The same specimen as shown in fig. 2 a-c slightly squashed. Obj. 100 X.

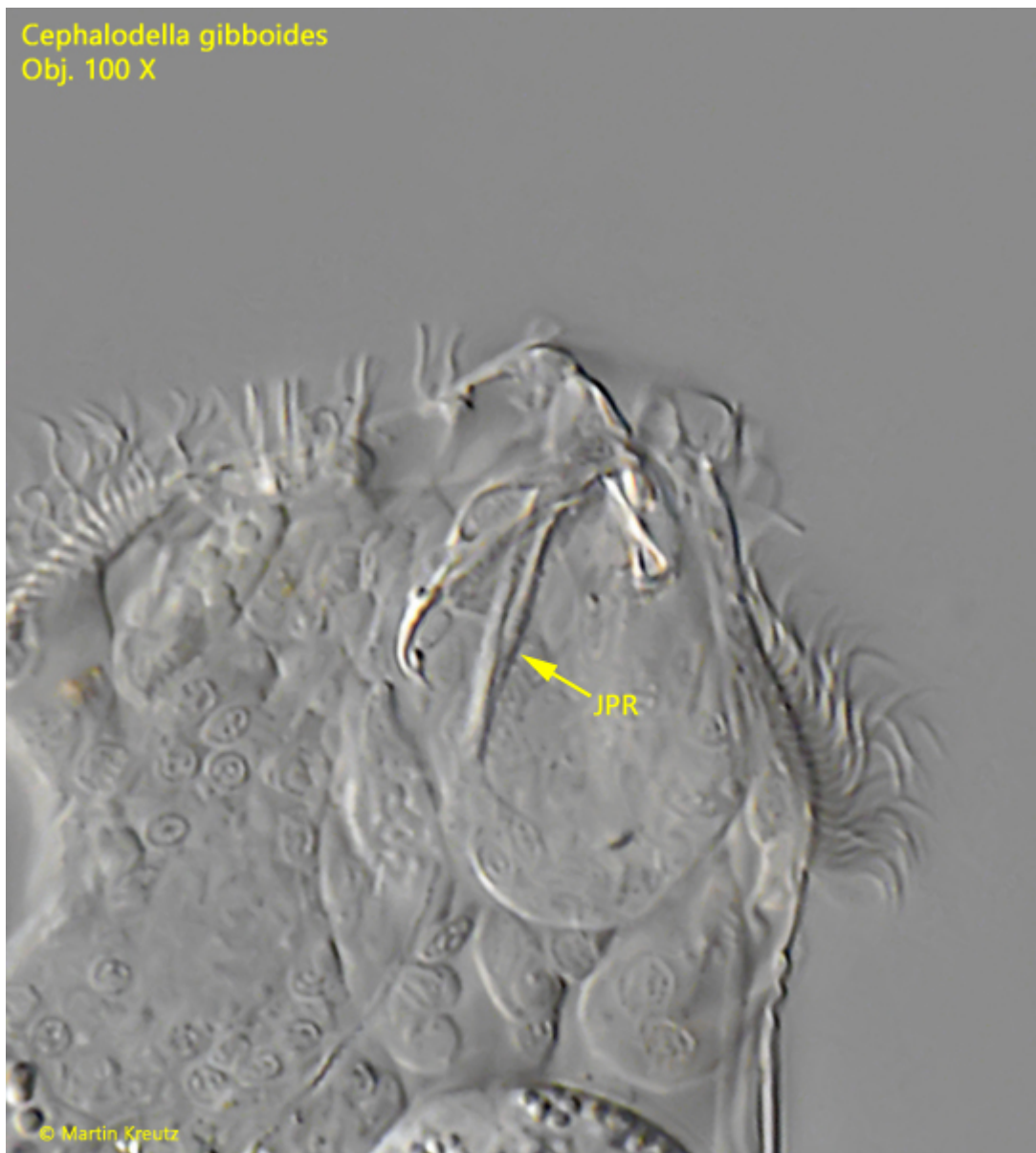


Fig. 4: *Cephalodella gibboides*. The head of the specimen as shown in fig. 3 a-b with focal plane on the trophi. Note the Y-shaped, joined pleural rods. Obj. 100 X.

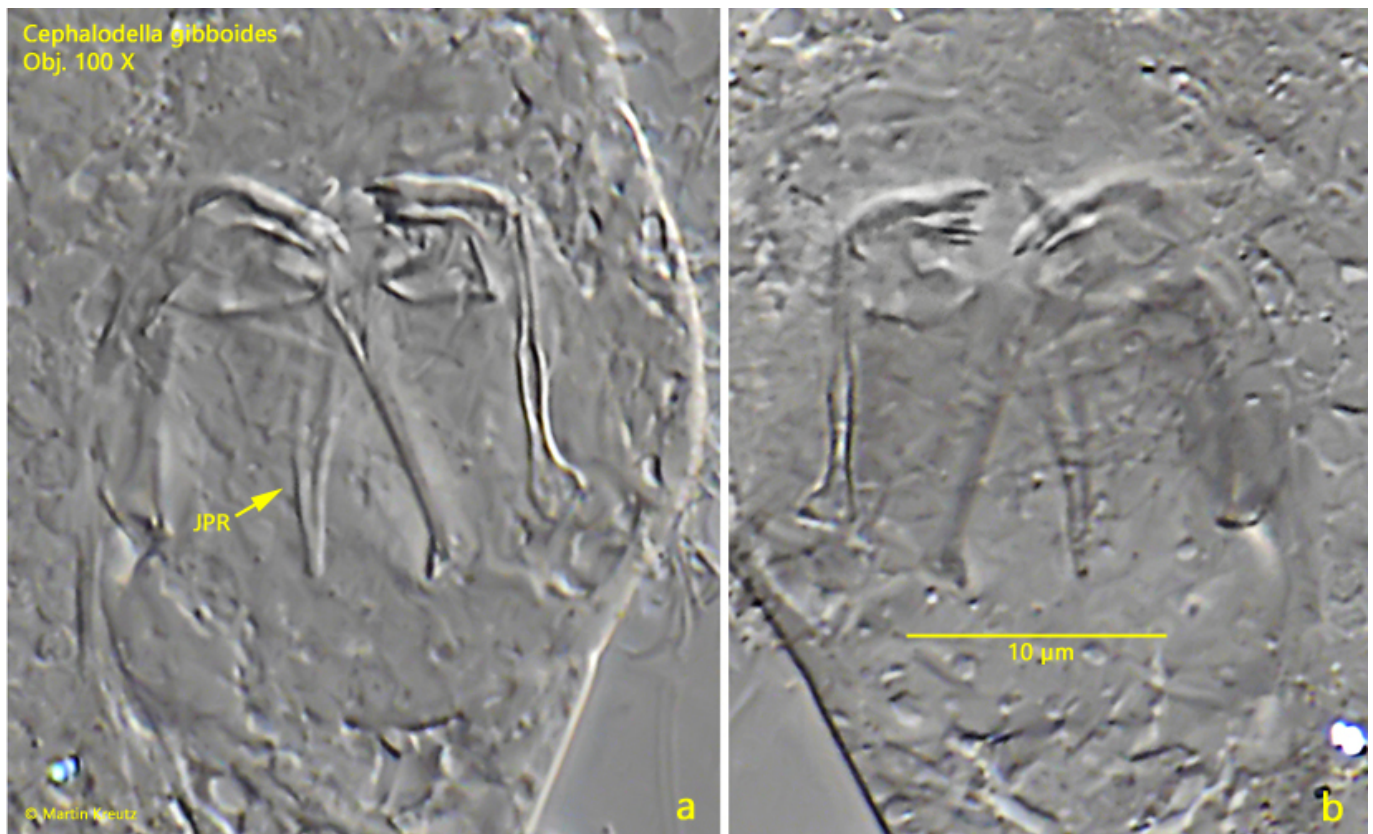


Fig. 5 a-b: *Cephalodella gibboides*. Two focal planes of the trophi in a squashed specimen. JPR = joined pleural rods. Obj. 100 X.