

***Cephalodella gracilis* (Ehrenberg, 1830)**

Most likely ID: n.a.

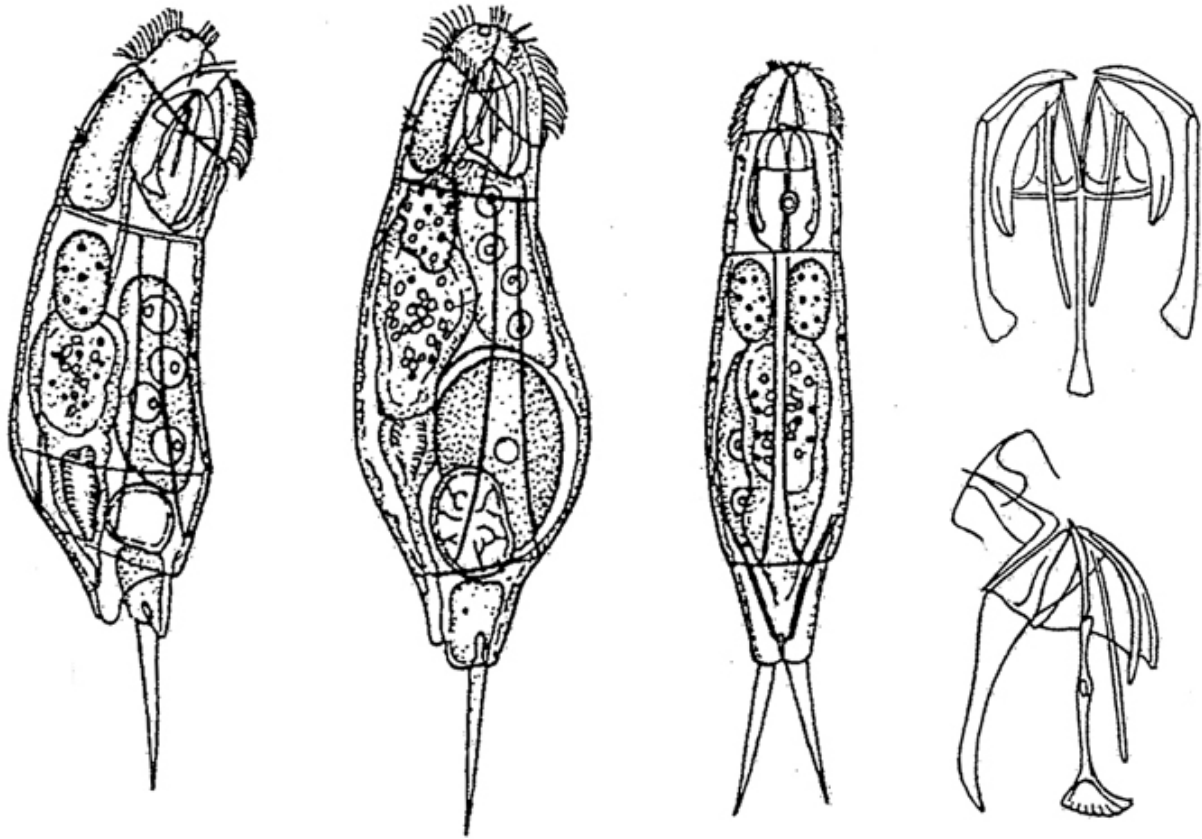
Synonyms: *Cephalodella gracilis* var. *lenticulata*, *Cephalodella gracilis* var. *sigmoides*, *Cephalodella sagitta*

Sampling location: [Mainau pond](#), [Purren pond](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Cephalodella gracilis](#)

Diagnosis:

- body rather short, laterally compressed, slightly gibbous dorsally
- length 135-152 µm
- head relatively short and convex anteriorly
- neck is well marked
- lorica is thin and flexible, lateral clefts narrow
- corona is oblique and strongly convex without projecting lips
- toes short, slender, slightly recurved and gradually tapering
- eyespot frontal
- retrocerebral organ absent
- vitellarium with four nuclei, rarely with six nuclei



after Wulfert

Cephalodella gracilis

I have found *Cephalodella gracilis* so far only in the [Mainau pond](#) and in the [Purren pond](#) in the upper mud layer. The species is mostly smaller than 150 µm and is immediately noticed by its small size. Important features for classification are the apical eyespot, the dagger-shaped toes and the vitellarium with only 4 nuclei (s. figs. 2a and 3). The latter is a very characteristic feature, since most *Cephalodella* species have 8 or 12 nuclei in the vitellarium.

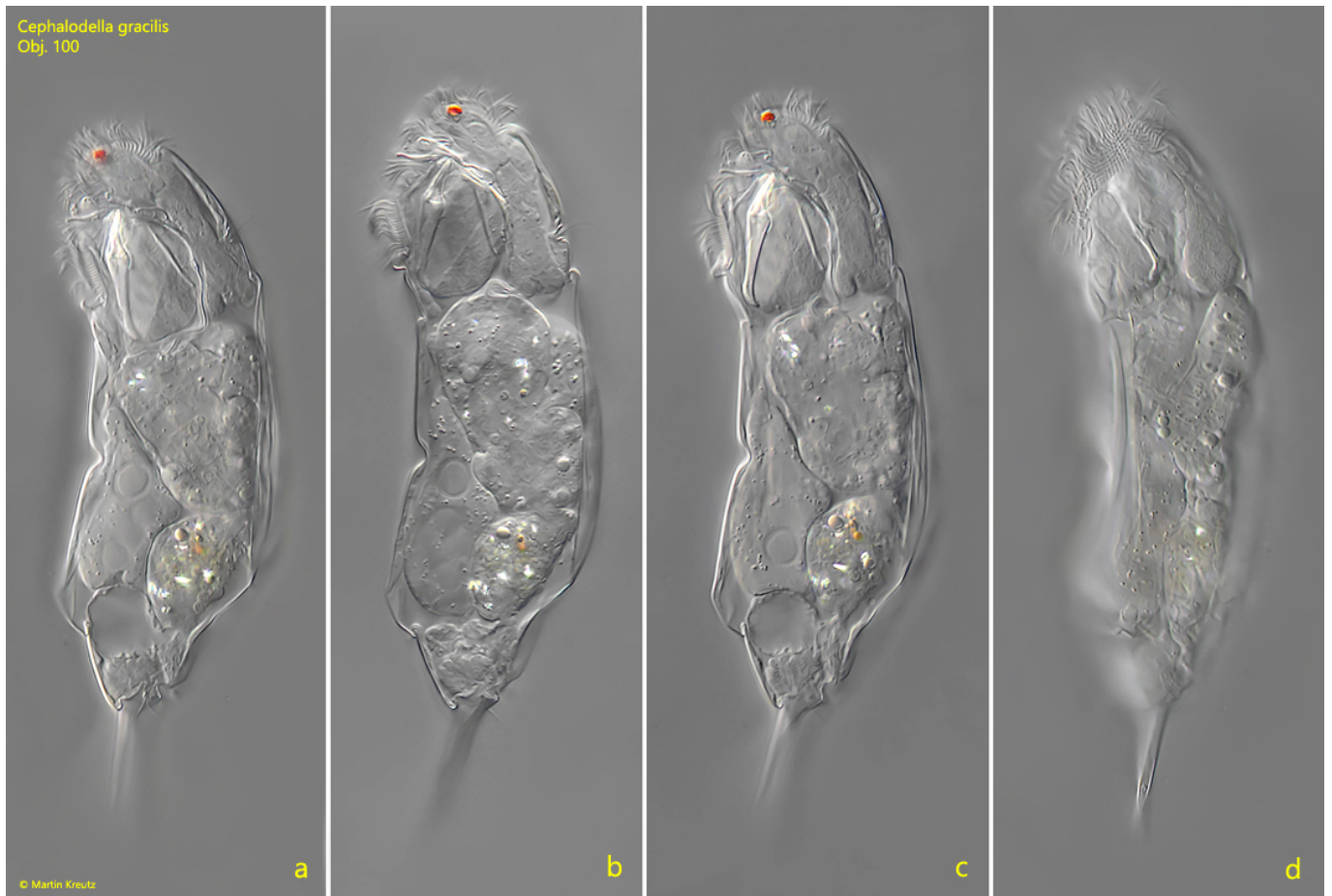


Fig. 1 a-c: *Cephalodella gracilis*. L = 110 μ m. A freely swimming specimen from left. Obj. 100 X.

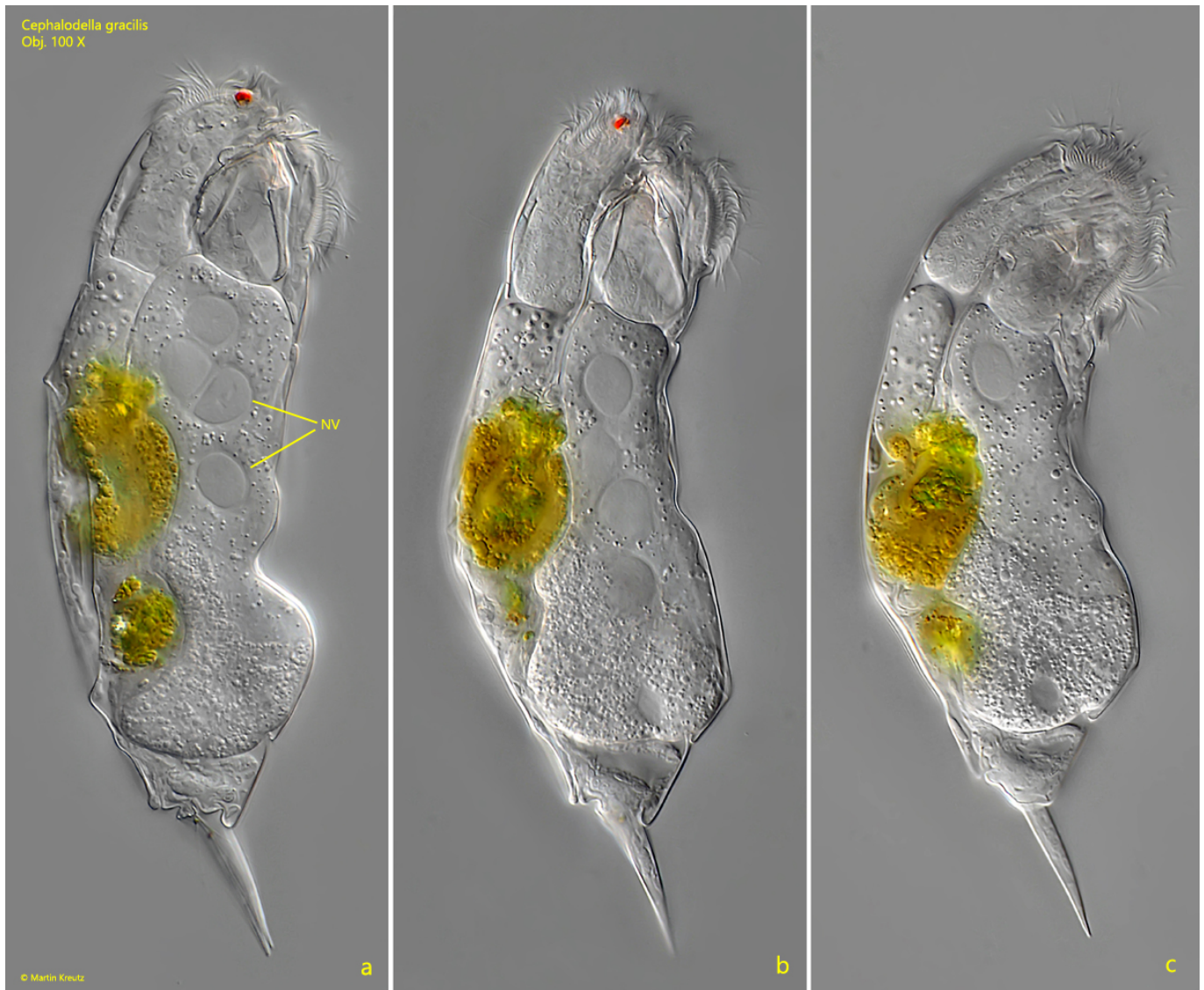


Fig. 2 a-c: *Cephalodella gracilis*. L = 138 μ m. A slightly squashed specimen from right. Note the 4 nuclei of the vitellarium (NV). Obj. 100 X.

Cephalodella gracilis
Obj. 100 X



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Fig. 3: *Cephalodella gracilis*. A strongly squashed specimen from right. The 4 nuclei of the vitellarium are visible (1-4). ES = apical eyespot, DA = dorsal antenna, TR = trophi. Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 4: *Cephalodella gracilis*. The trophi in a strongly squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.