

Cercomonas varians
(Skuja) Mylnikov, 1992

Most likely ID: n.a.

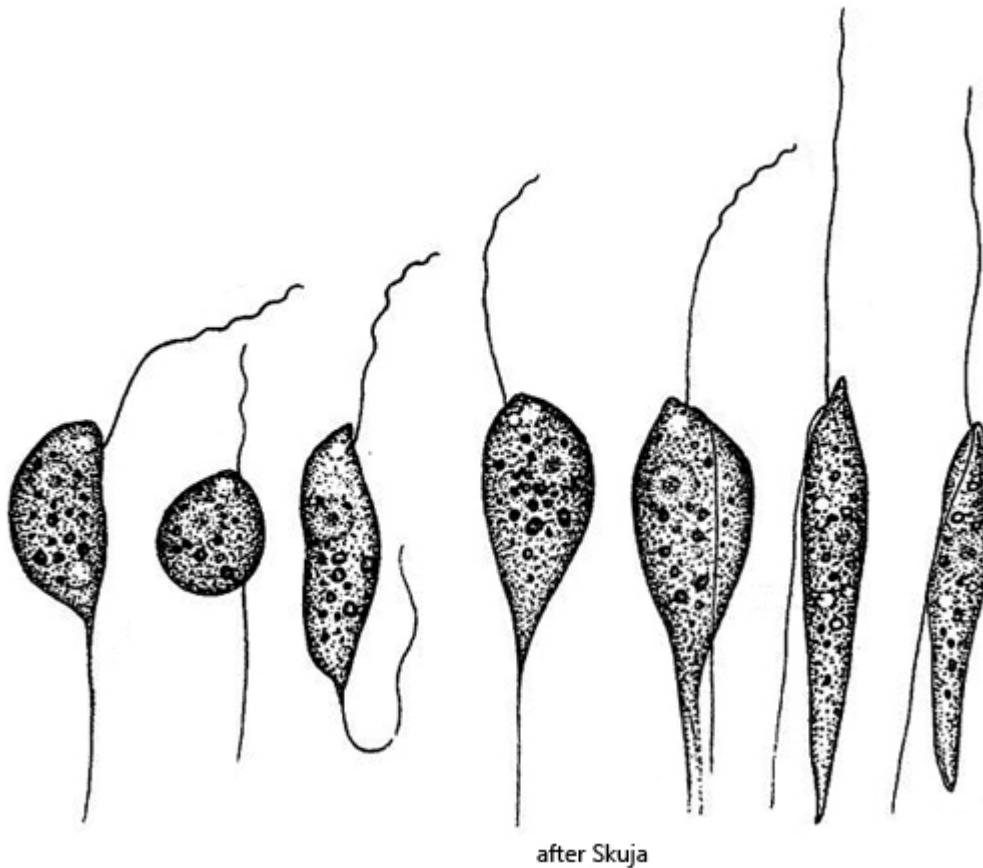
Synonym: *Cercobodo varians*

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Cercomonas varians](#)

Diagnosis:

- body almost club-shaped, flexible, amoeboid
- length 11–18 µm, width 7–10 µm
- one leading flagellum, about body length
- one trailing flagellum, about twice of body length
- two contractile vacuole, mid-body and anterior
- nucleus with central nucleolus in anterior third
- cytoplasm with fine granules and strongly refracting granules
- pseudopodia exclusively at anterior end



Cercomonas varians

I have so far only found *Cercomonas varians* in the sludge from the [Simmelried](#). Due to their small size, the specimens are difficult to find in fresh samples. One is somewhat dependent on chance if specimens are located under the coverslip.

Cercomonas varians has an amoeboid movable body, with the front end usually consistently broad or narrowly rounded, and finger-shaped pseudopodia formed exclusively at the posterior end. The trailing flagellum is pulled behind in a straight form without any visible movement during smooth gliding (s. fig. 1 h). The somewhat shorter leading flagellum provides the locomotion. An important distinguishing feature from other species within the genus *Cercomonas* is the two contractile vacuoles. One is always located at the front end (s. fig. 1 d). I mostly found the second contractile vacuole in the middle of the body or in the posterior third (s. fig. 1 b). The cell nucleus is apical with a clearly visible, central nucleolus (s. fig. 1 c).

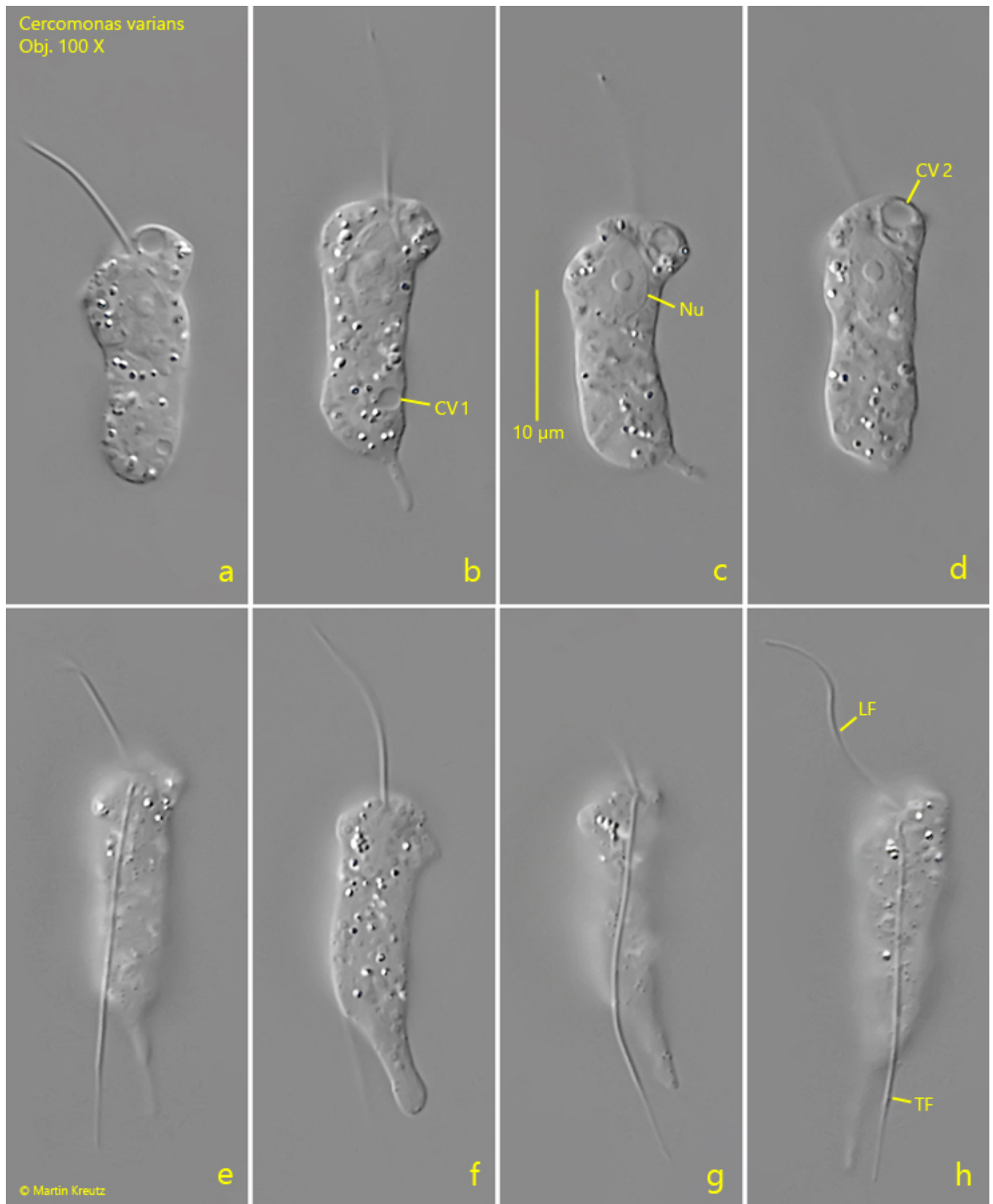


Fig. 1 a-h: *Cercomonas varians*. L ~ 20 μ m. Different focal planes of a freely gliding specimen. Note the two contractile vacuoles (CV 1, CV 2) and the nucleus (Nu) near the anterior end. LF = leading flagellum, TF = trailing flagellum. Obj. 100 X.