

***Chaetonotus aemilianus* (Balsamo, 1978)**

Most likely ID: n.a.

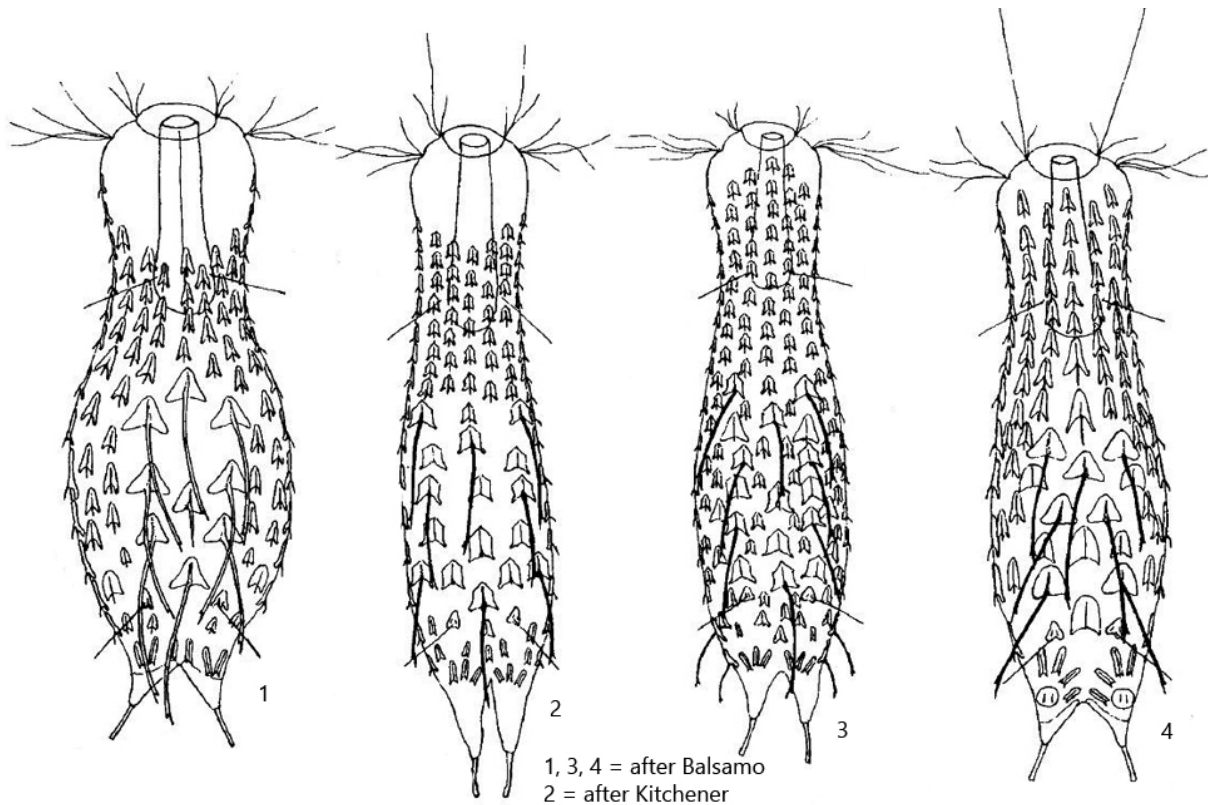
Synonym: *Hystriochaetonotus aemilianus*

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

Phylogenetic tree: [Chaetonotus aemilianus](#)

Diagnosis:

- body short and stocky
- length 80-100 µm, width 31-37 µm
- head weakly five-lobed
- cephalion very thin
- 4 anterior ciliary tufts, variable in length
- 4 dorsal setolae, posterior pair always on special scales
- 7-11 longitudinal rows of small, finely spined scales
- scales three-lobed, about 2-6 µm long
- 7-9 large spines with distal secondary spines distributed in 3-4 transverse rows
- the large spines are straight, 18 - 26 µm long
- between the large spines there are 7-13 trilobed keel plates lacking a spine



Chaetonotus aemilianus

I have found *Chaetonotus aemilianus* so far in [Simmelried](#) as well as in [Purren pond](#). In the samples it is a conspicuously small gastrotrich (mostly 90–100 μm), bearing few dorsal spines in the mid-body. The spines have only one secondary spine. *Chaetonotus aemilianus* belongs to the very variable species. The dorsal scales are basically trilobate, but often different in shape (s. drawings from Balsamo and Kitchener of 4 shape variants above). A constant character, however, are the long spines, which are mostly straight and of which 7–9 are present. In my populations there were always 8 long spines.

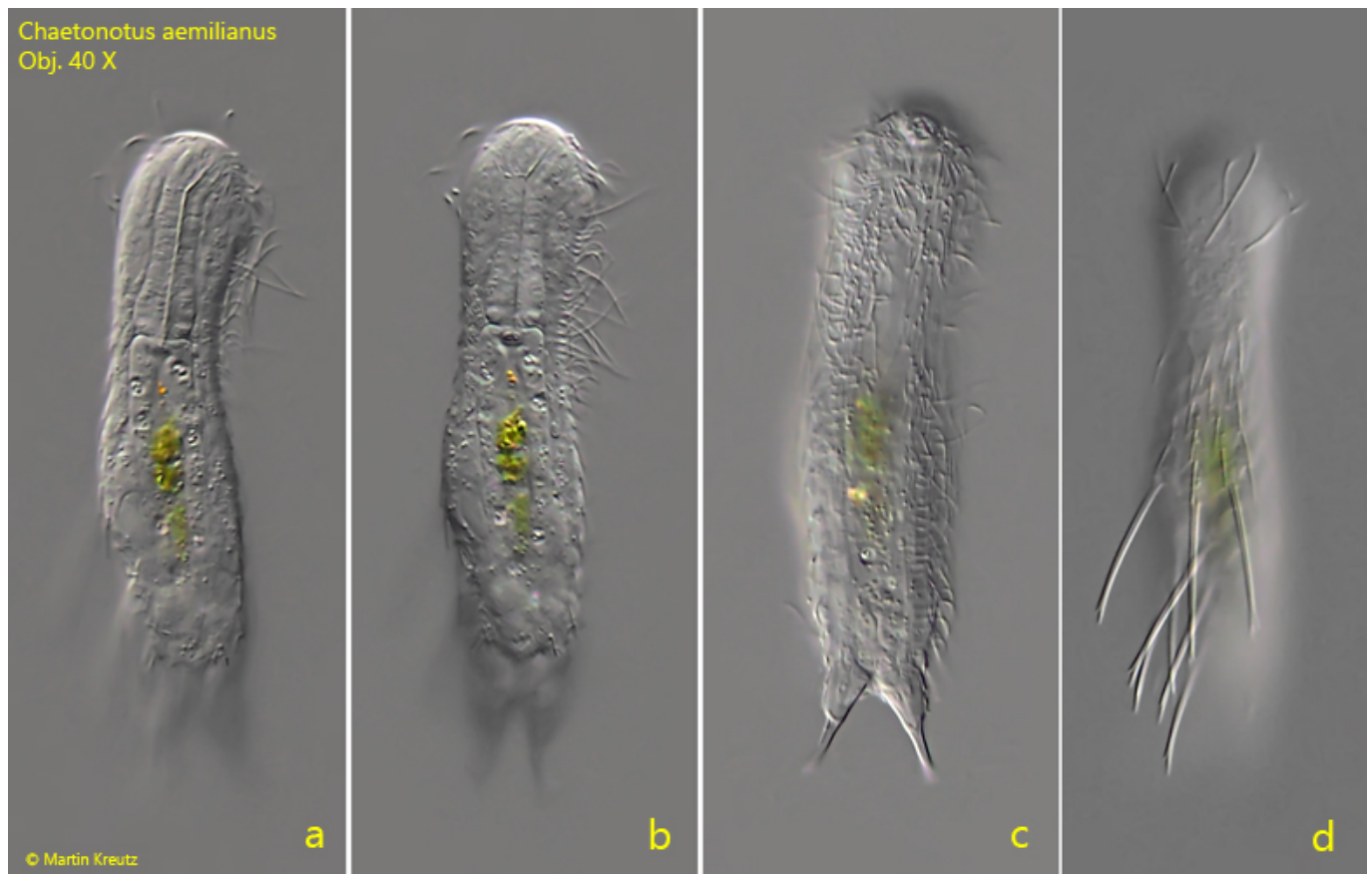


Fig. 1 a-d: *Chaetonotus aemilianus*. L = 95 μ m. Dorsal view of a freely swimming specimen. Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 2 a-b: *Chaetonotus aemilianus*. L = 98 μ m. A slightly squashed (a) and strongly squashed specimen (b) for visualisation of the dorsal scales. Obj. 100 X.

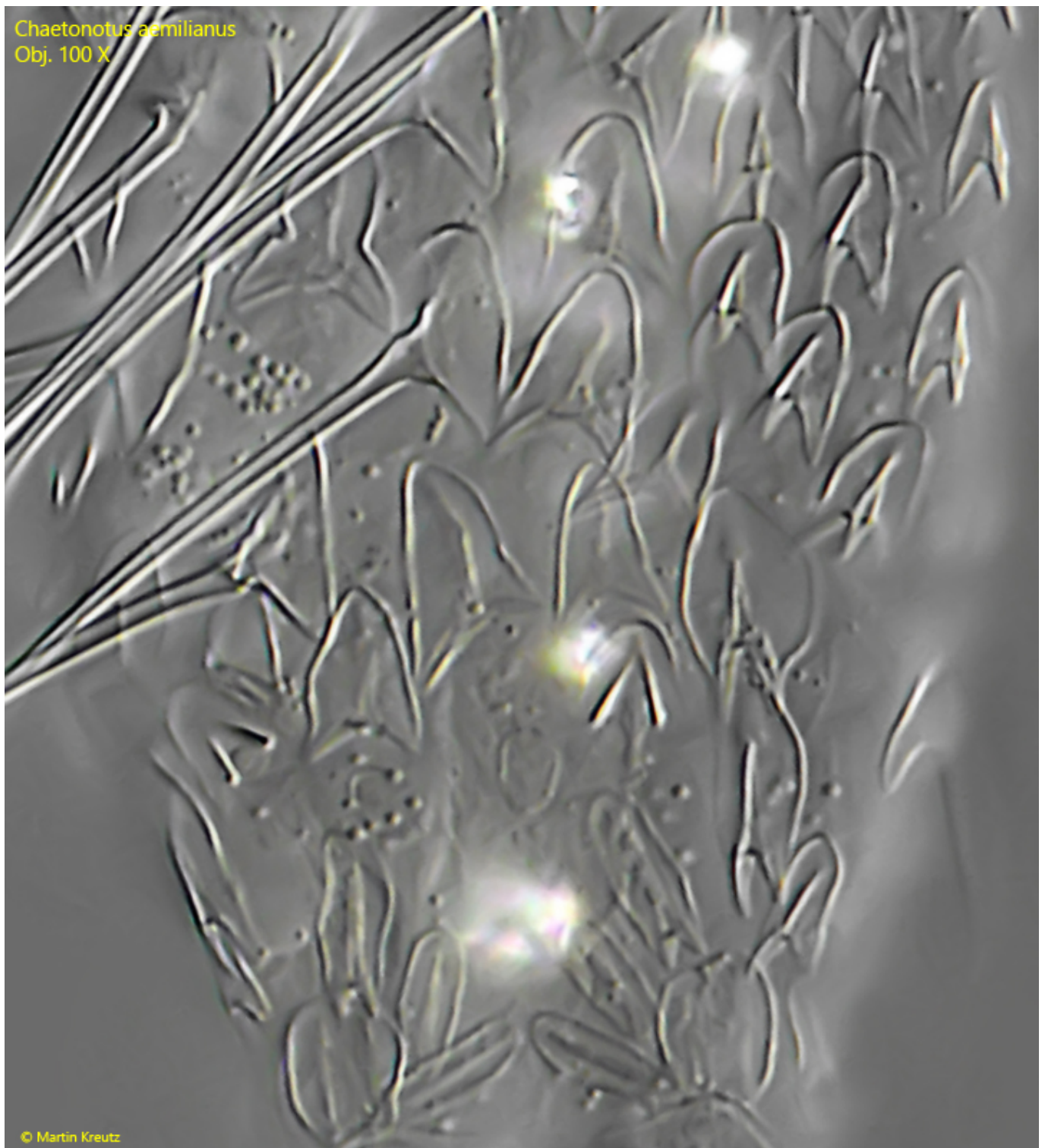


Fig. 3: *Chaetonotus aemilianus*. Detail of the dorsal scales in mid-body and the posterior end. Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 4: *Chaetonotus aemilianus*. L = 95 μ m. A strongly squashed specimen for visualisation of the long and straight dorsal spines. This specimen has 8 of these long spines. Obj. 100 X.

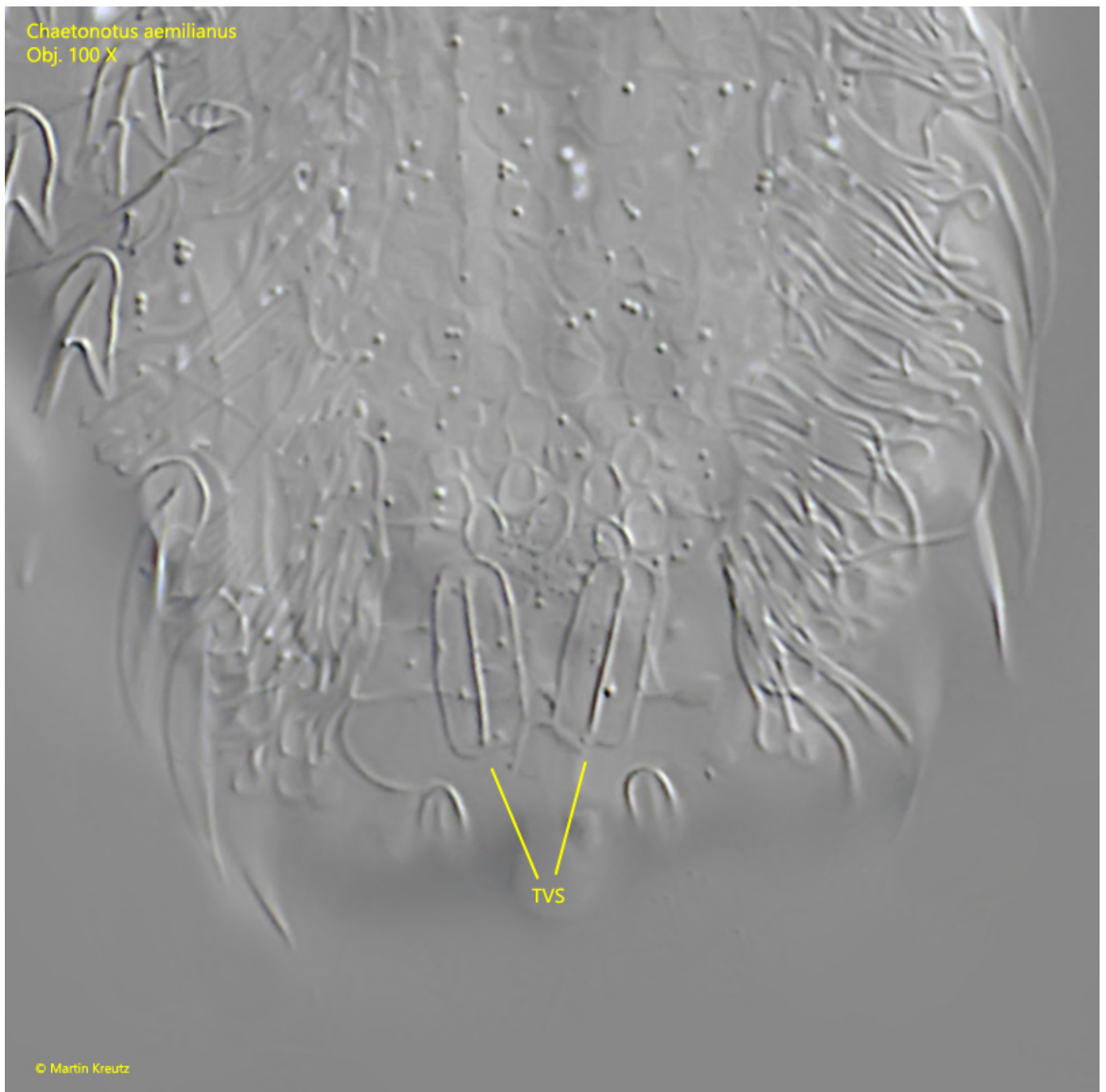


Fig. 5: *Chaetonotus aemilianus*. The ventral scales at the posterior end in detail. Note the pair of keeled terminal ventral scales (TVS). Obj. 100 X.