Chaetonotus larus Müller, 1773

Most likely ID: n.a.

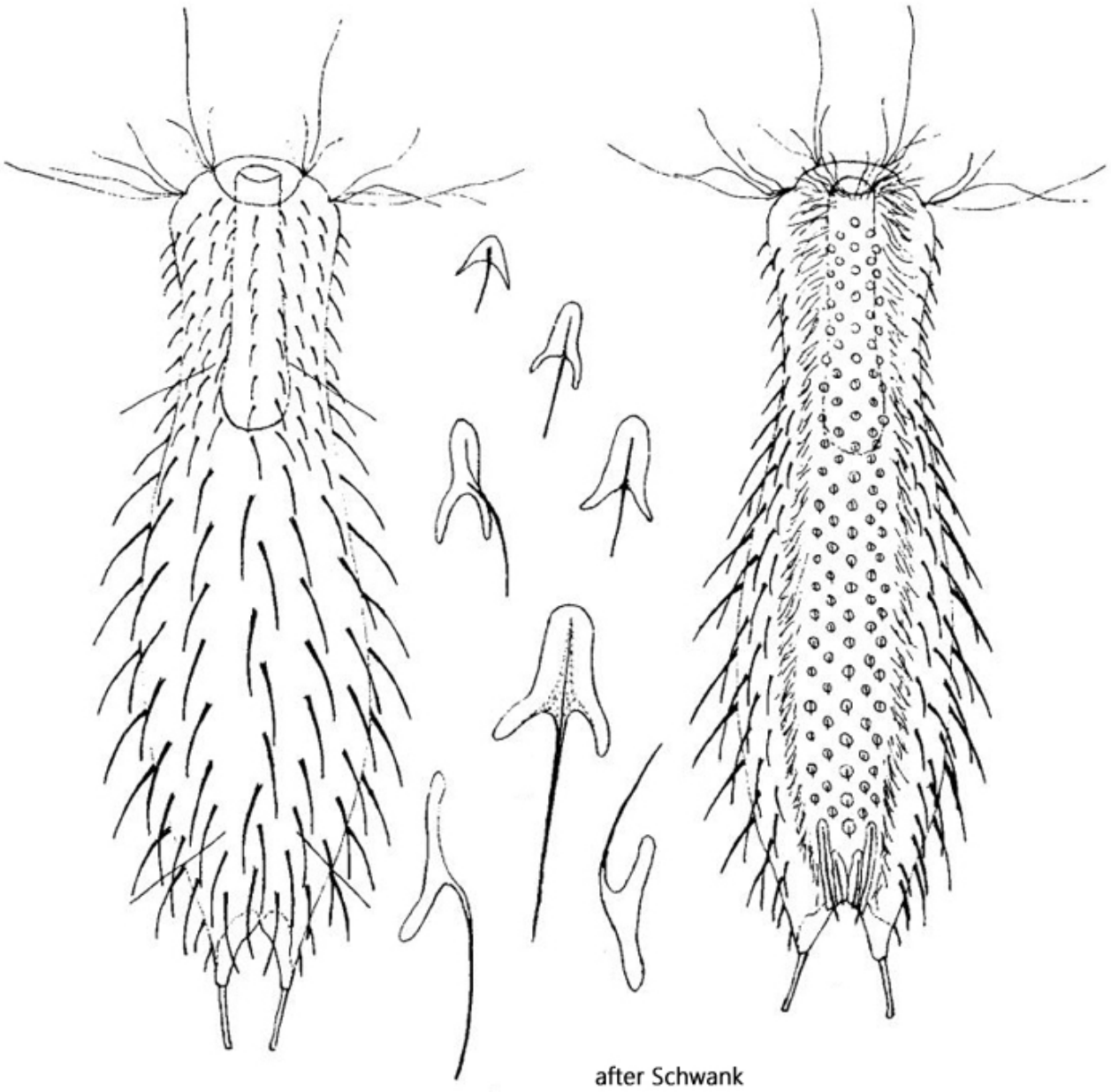
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Schwemm Moor (Austria)

Phylogenetic tree: *Chaetonotus larus*

Diagnosis:

- body stocky, sole-shaped
- length 80–150 µm, width 18–45 µm
- head weakly five-lobed
- pharynx cylindrical, 25–40 µm long
- dorsally 7–9 longitudinal rows with 13–18 trilobed scales
- trilobed scales keeled with a curved, simple spine
- head and neck scales more triangular
- ventrally tiny, roundish scales with keels, not overlapping
- ventral scales in pharyngeal region thin and smooth
- furca 9–18 µm long, base naked



Chaetonotus larus

I have only ever found *Chaetonotus larus* once in samples from the Schwemm Moor in Austria. As the species is very small, it is possible that I have overlooked it in my other localities.

Unfortunately, I have only been able to examine a single specimen more closely. It was 115 µm long, which is pretty much in the middle of the range of 80–150 µm given by Schwank (1990). This small size is also the first important feature for identification. The dorsal scales are three-lobed with a keel and a curved, simple spine (s. fig. 5). Their exact shape is difficult to recognize even in heavily crushed specimens, as they are pressed into the cuticle by the spine when the layer thickness is reduced.

I was only able to examine the ventral side from the dorsal side. However, the small, keeled scales were still clearly visible (s. fig. 7). The anterior third, approximately at the level of the pharynx, is free of ventral scales or so delicate that they are no longer contrasted (s. fig. 7). This is another important feature of *Chaetonotus larus*. I could only recognize two terminal scales (s. figs 7 and 8). Schwank does not mention the number of terminal scales, but he draws 4 terminal scales (s. drawings above). This may be due to the fact that the species is apparently quite variable. Schwank mentions that the species *Chaetonotus larus* probably conceals other similar species such as *Chaetonotus aculeatus* or *Chaetonotus sphagnophilus*, which have only slightly different scale shapes.

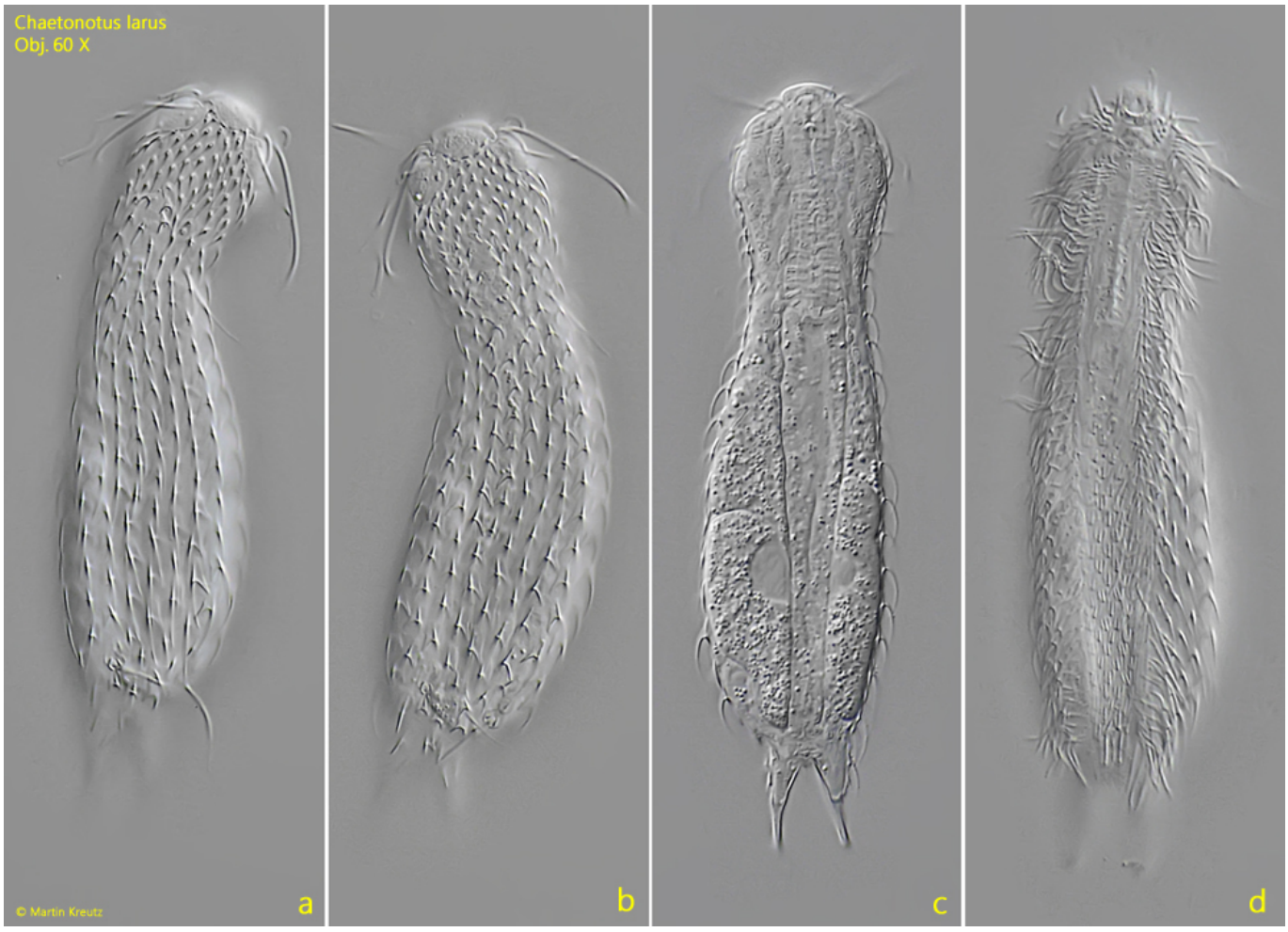


Fig. 1 a-d: *Chaetonotus larus*. L = 115 µm. Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen from dorsal. In fig. 1 d the focal plane is on the scales of the ventral side. Obj. 60 X.

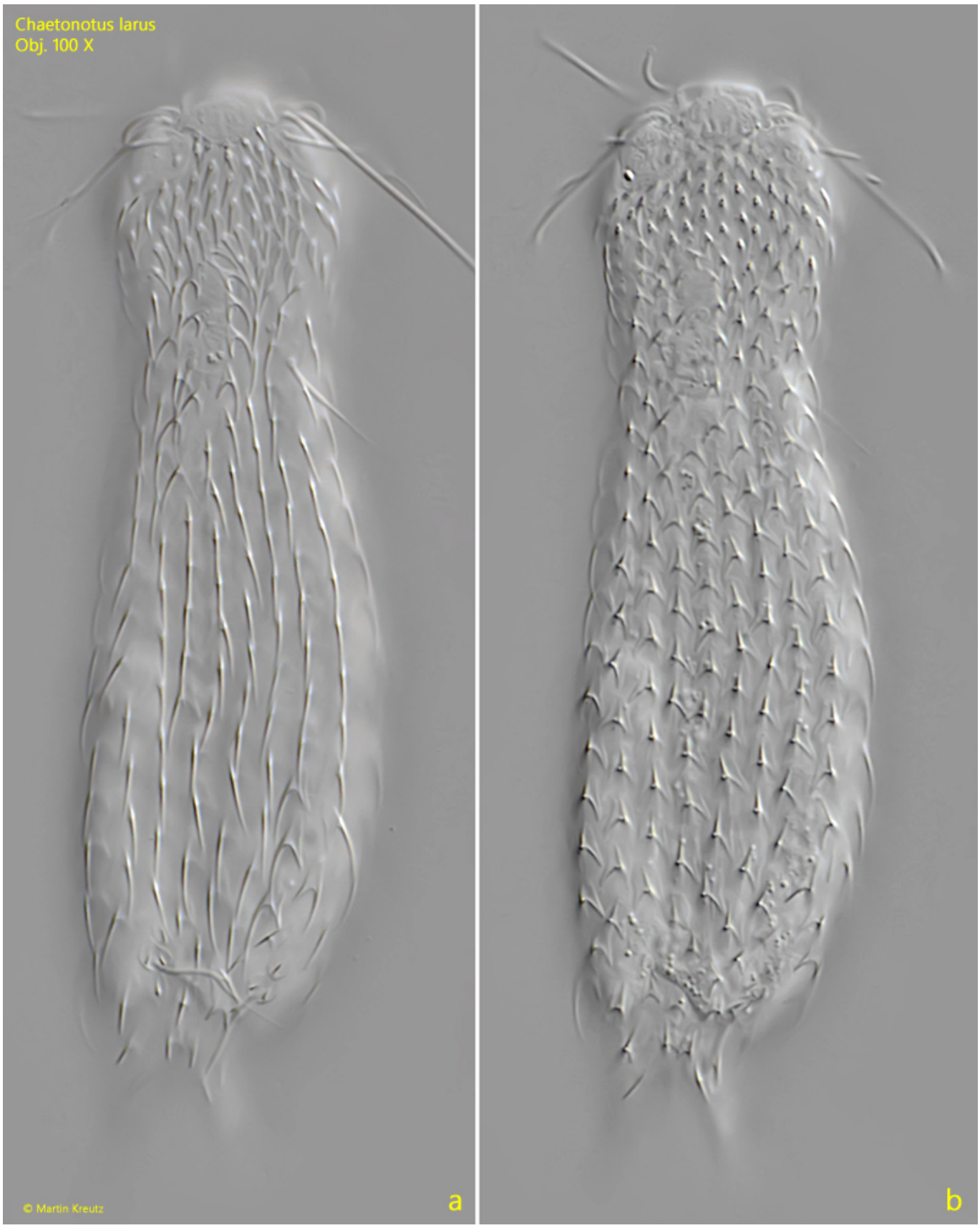


Fig. 2 a-b: *Chaetonotus larus*. L = 115 µm. Two focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen from dorsal. Obj. 100 X.


Chaetonotus larus
Obj. 100 X
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Fig. 3: *Chaetonotus larus*. L = 115 µm. Total view of the dorsal scales of the squashed specimen as shown in fig. 1 a-d. Obj. 100 X.

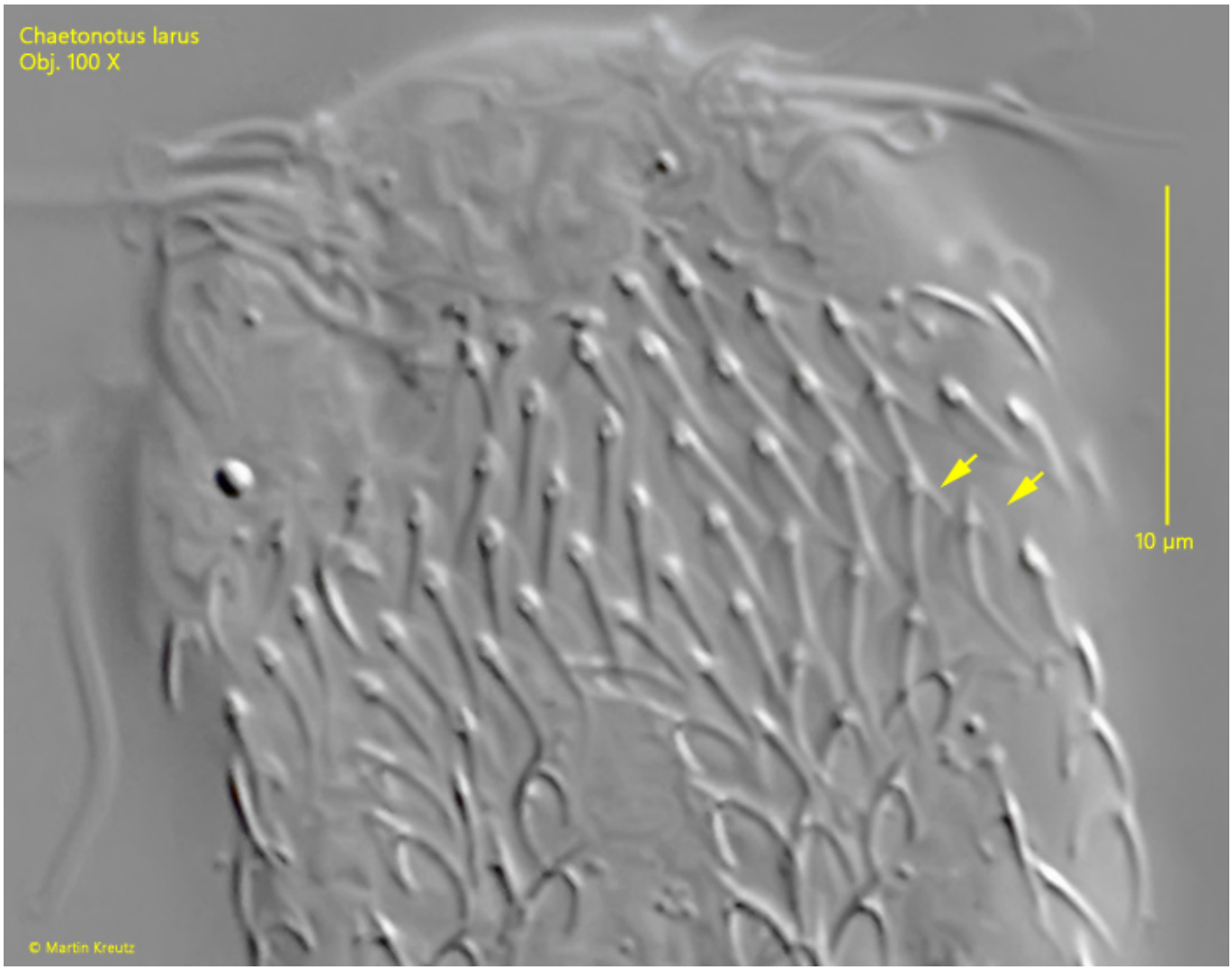

Fig. 4: *Chaetonotus larus*. The scales of the head- and neck region in detail. The shaped of the head scales is hard to recognize. They are triloped with a roundish outline (arrows). Obj. 100 X.

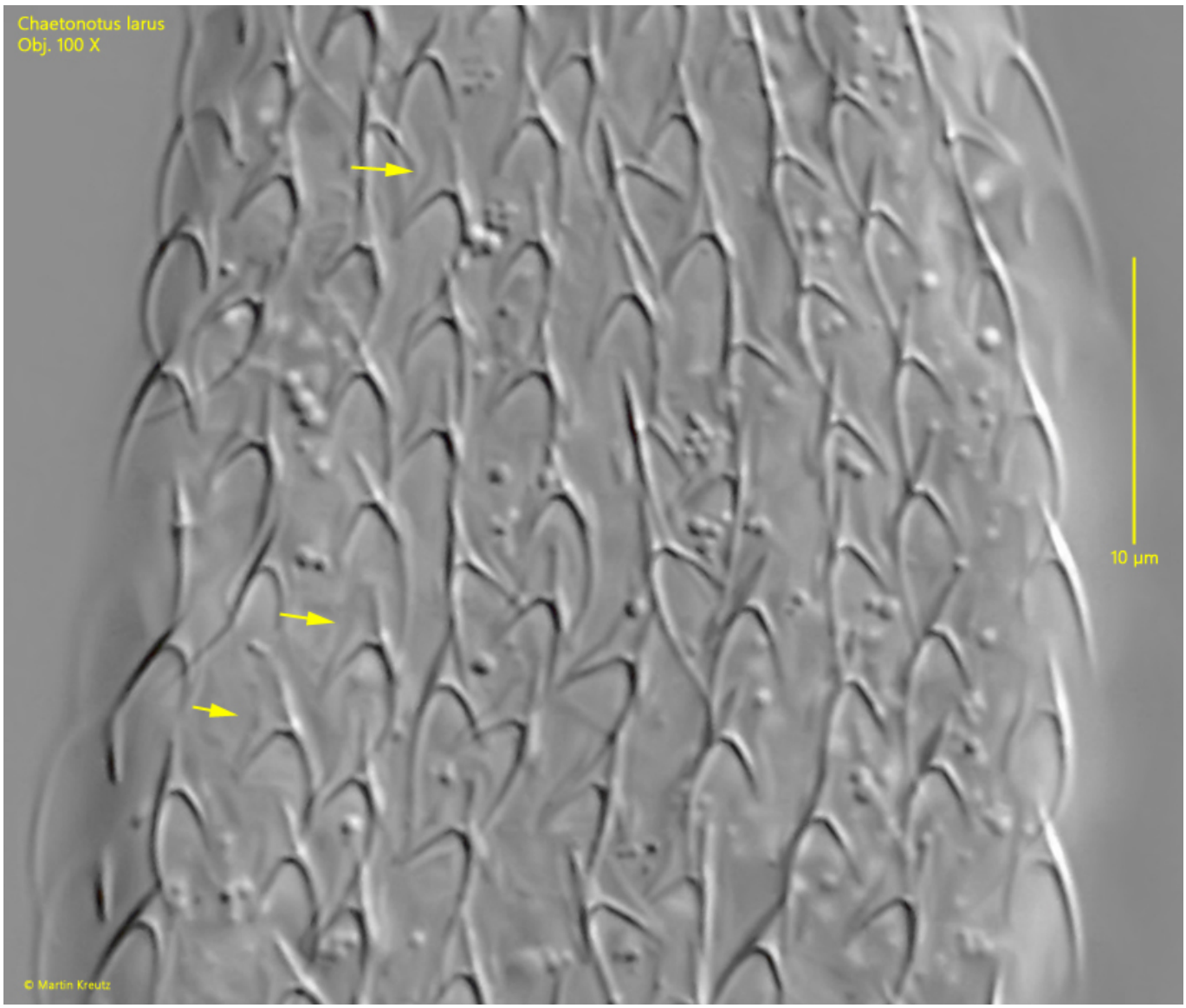

Fig. 5: *Chaetonotus larus*. The dorsal scales of mid-body in detail. The scales are trilobed with a median keel and a curved, simple spine (arrows). Obj. 100 X.

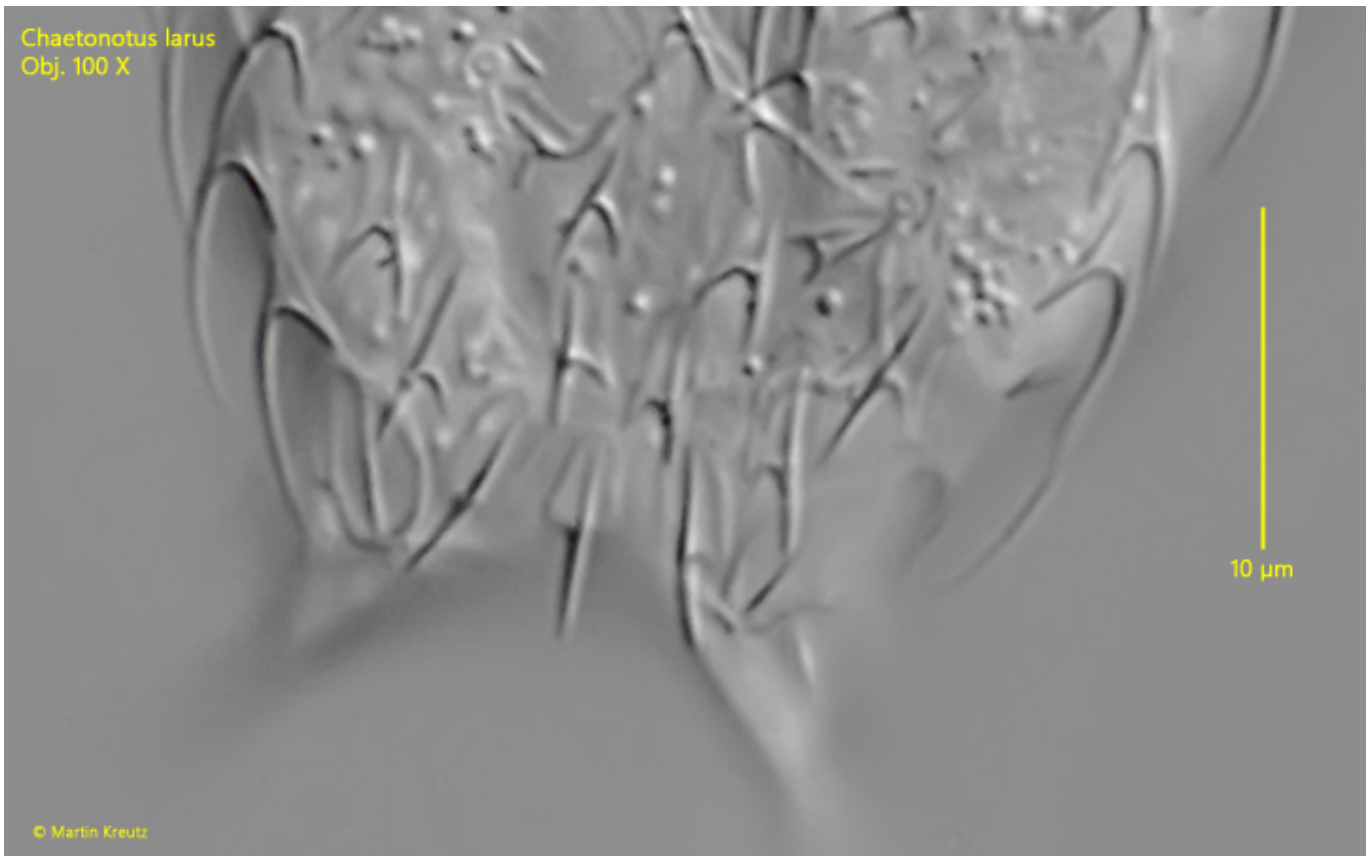

Fig. 6: *Chaetonotus larus*. The posterior dorsal scales in detail. Obj. 100 X.

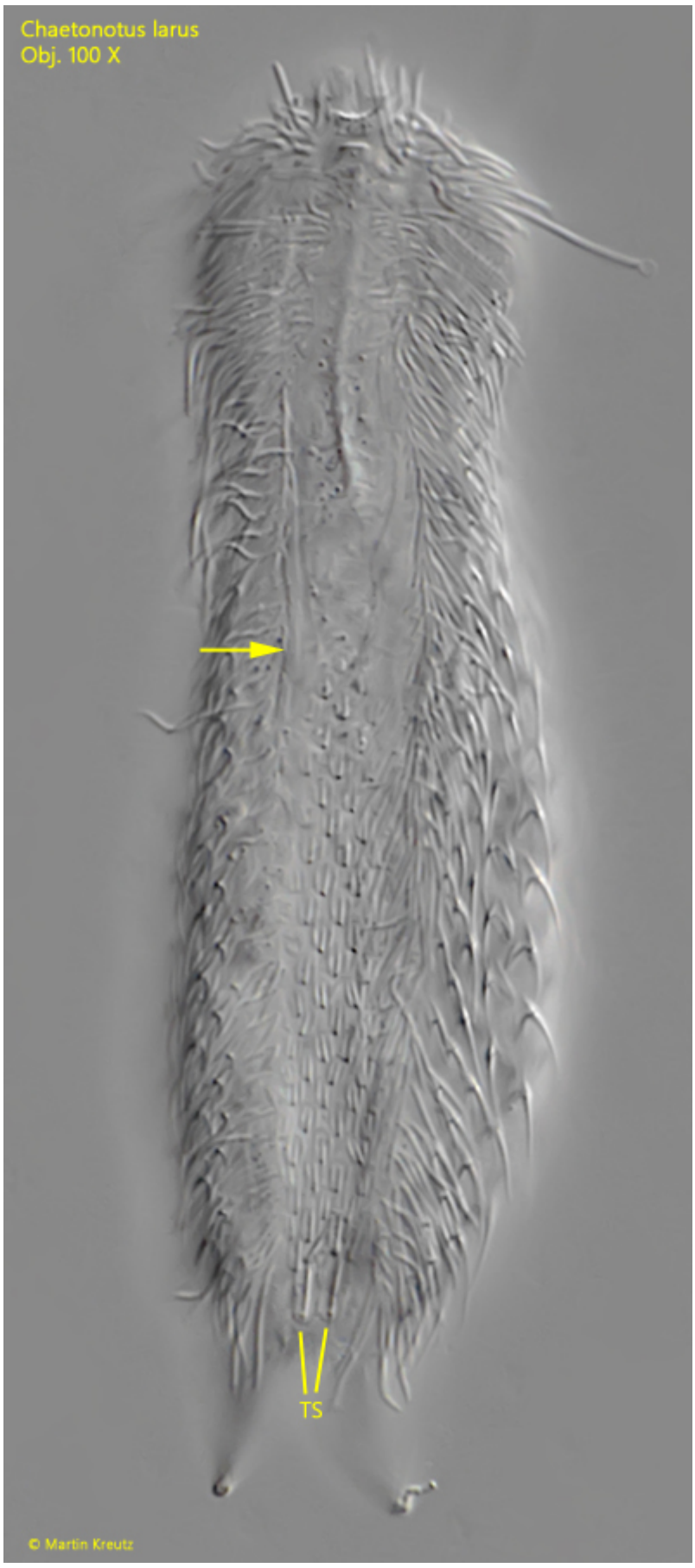

Fig. 7: *Chaetonotus larus*. In the anterior third, approximately from the level of the pharynx (arrow), ventral scales are no longer visible. TS = terminal scales. Obj. 100

X.

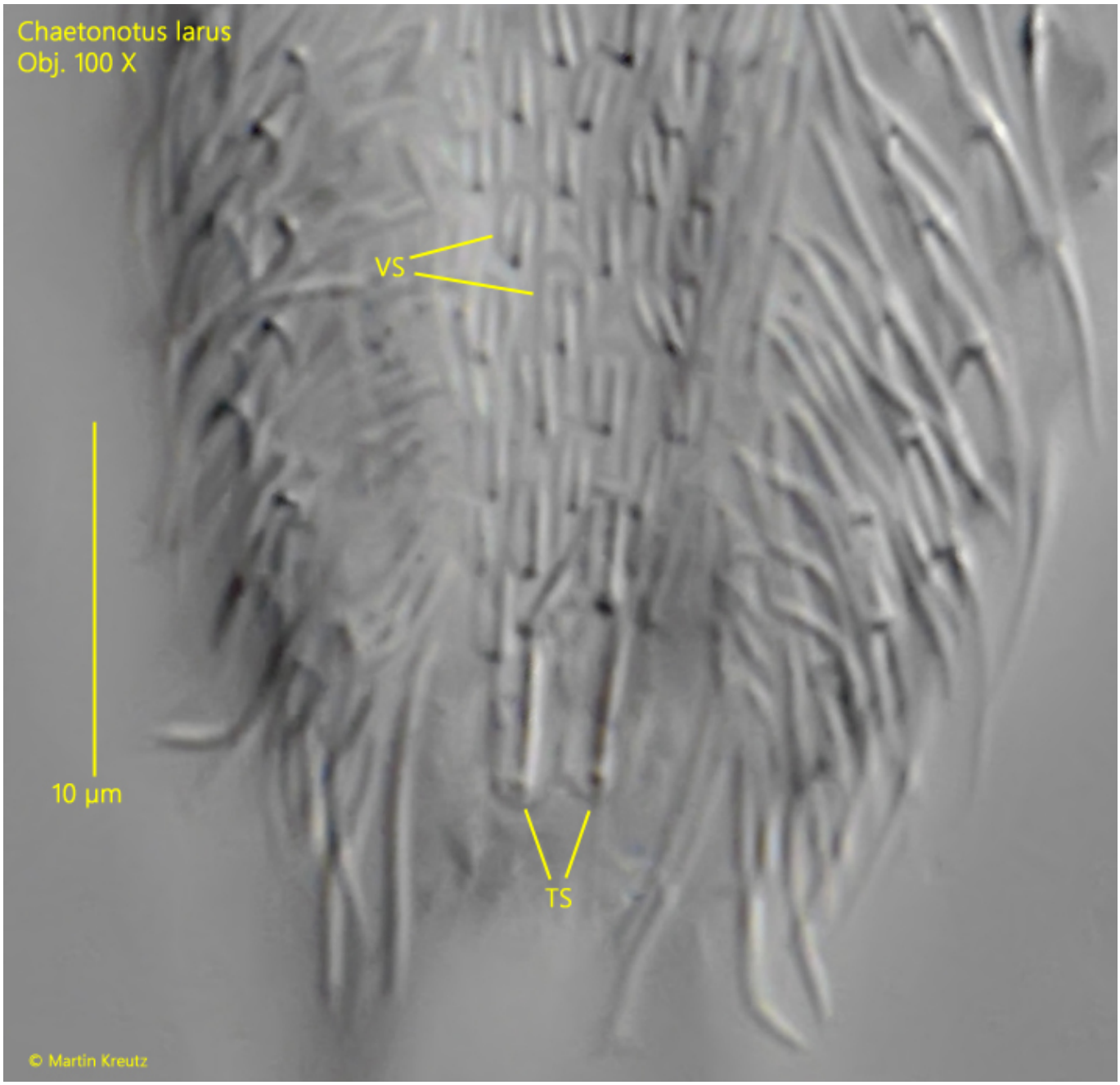

Fig. 8: *Chaetonotus larus*. The keeled ventral scales (VS) and the terminal scales (TS) in detail. Obj. 100 X.