Chaetonotus oculatus (Schwank, 1990)

Most likely ID: n.a.

Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: Chaetonotus oculatus

Diagnosis:

- body shoe-shaped
- length 90-130 µm
- head strongly five-lobed with 4 tufts of long cilia
- two ocelli present
- pharynx cylindrically shaped
- toes 11–15 μm long, completely covered with keeled scales
- tubes reaching half of toes length
- dorsally 11 longitudinal rows of scales
- keeled scales escutcheon-shaped with a short spine arising at distal end
- distal rim of scales with an indentation
- ventral scales are not described



after Schwank & Bartsch Chaetonotus oculatus

I have found *Chaetonotus oculatus* so far exclusively in the <u>Simmelried</u> between decomposing plant masses but also in the uppermost mud layer. So far I have found only one specimen in March 2023. However, I cannot exclude that I missed the species earlier because of its small size.

The species can be identified by a combination of certain characteristics. First, *Chaetonotus oculatus* is comparatively small. My specimen was 88 µm in length, at the lower limit of the range given by Schwank, 1990 (s. <u>literature</u>). Spherical ocelli are found on both sides of the head (s. fig. 2). The dorsal scales are distinctly keeled and have a short, curved spine at the distal end, but this can only be seen in lateral view (s. fig. 5). The scales are narrow, almost parallel-sided, and the posterior margin is distinctly incised (s. fig. 4). I could not examine

the ventral scales (if present) because I had only this one specimen.



Fig. 1 a-d: Chaetonotus oculatus. L = 88 μ m. A freely swimming specimen in dorsal view. Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 2: Chaetonotus oculatus. $L = 88 \mu m$. A slightly squashed specimen from dorsal. Note the two ocelli (OC) located near the lateral lobes of the head. Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 3 a-b: Chaetonotus oculatus. L = 88 μ m. Two focal planes of the dorsal scales. Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 4: *Chaetonotus oculatus.* The dorsal scales at the posterior end in detail. Note the distal indentations of the scales (arrows). Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 5: *Chaetonotus oculatus.* The dorsal scales with short spines at the distal end (arrows) in lateral view. Obj. 100 X.