

***Chilodonella caudata* (Stokes, 1885)**

Most likely ID: n.a.

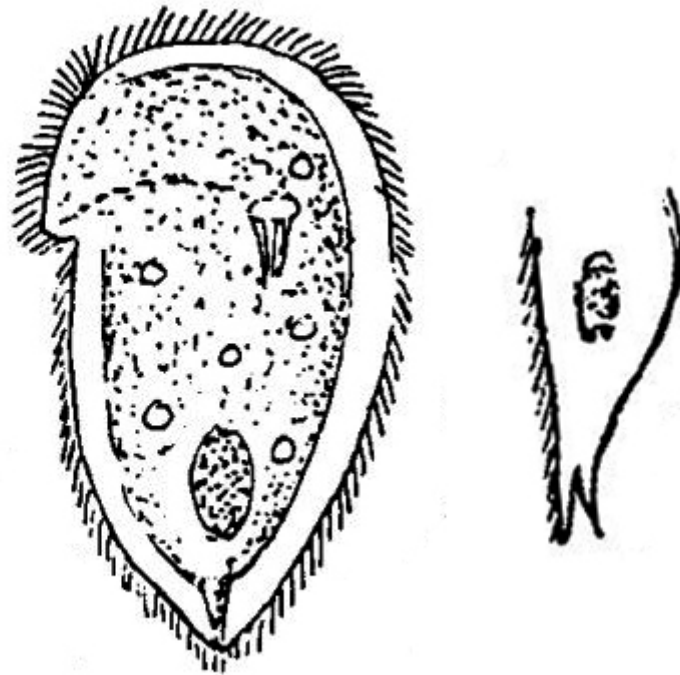
Synonym: n.a.

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

Phylogenetic tree: [Chilodonella caudata](#)

Diagnosis:

- body oval with anterior left-hand rostrum
- rostrum protrudes at a right angle
- dorso-ventrally flattened
- length about 42 µm
- a distinct caudal spine on dorsal side
- a curved dorsal brush in the center of the anterior fourth
- ventral ciliation of *Chilodonella* type
- several contractile vacuoles
- oval macronucleus in posterior half
- one spherical micronucleus adjacent to macronucleus



after Kahl

Chilodonella caudata

I regularly find *Chilodonella caudata* in samples with decomposing plant masses and on the [floating coverslip](#). The species can be easily recognized by two features. Firstly, the rostrum on the left protrudes at an almost right angle (s. fig. 1 a-d) and there is a conspicuous spine located on the posterior end of the dorsal side (s. figs. 4 and 5 a-c).

Chilodonella caudata has only rarely been described so far. Kahl reports that the ventral side has not yet been examined. I therefore assume that Kahl did not find *Chilodonella caudata* himself, but took over the description from Stokes. I was able to examine the ventral side in detail in a squashed specimen (s.e figs. 2 a-b and 3 a). It is characteristic of the genus *Chilodonella* with a continuous pre-oral kinety, three circumoral kineties and a left and right field of cilia framing a naked midfield. The specimens in my population were between 36-50 µm long. There are several contractile vacuoles present (at least 5, s. fig. 8 a-c) as described by Kahl.

More images and information on *Chilodonella caudata*: [Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-Chilodonella caudata](#)



Fig. 1 a-d: *Chilodonella caudata*. L = 47 μ m. A freely gliding specimen from ventral. RO = rostrum. Obj. 60 X.

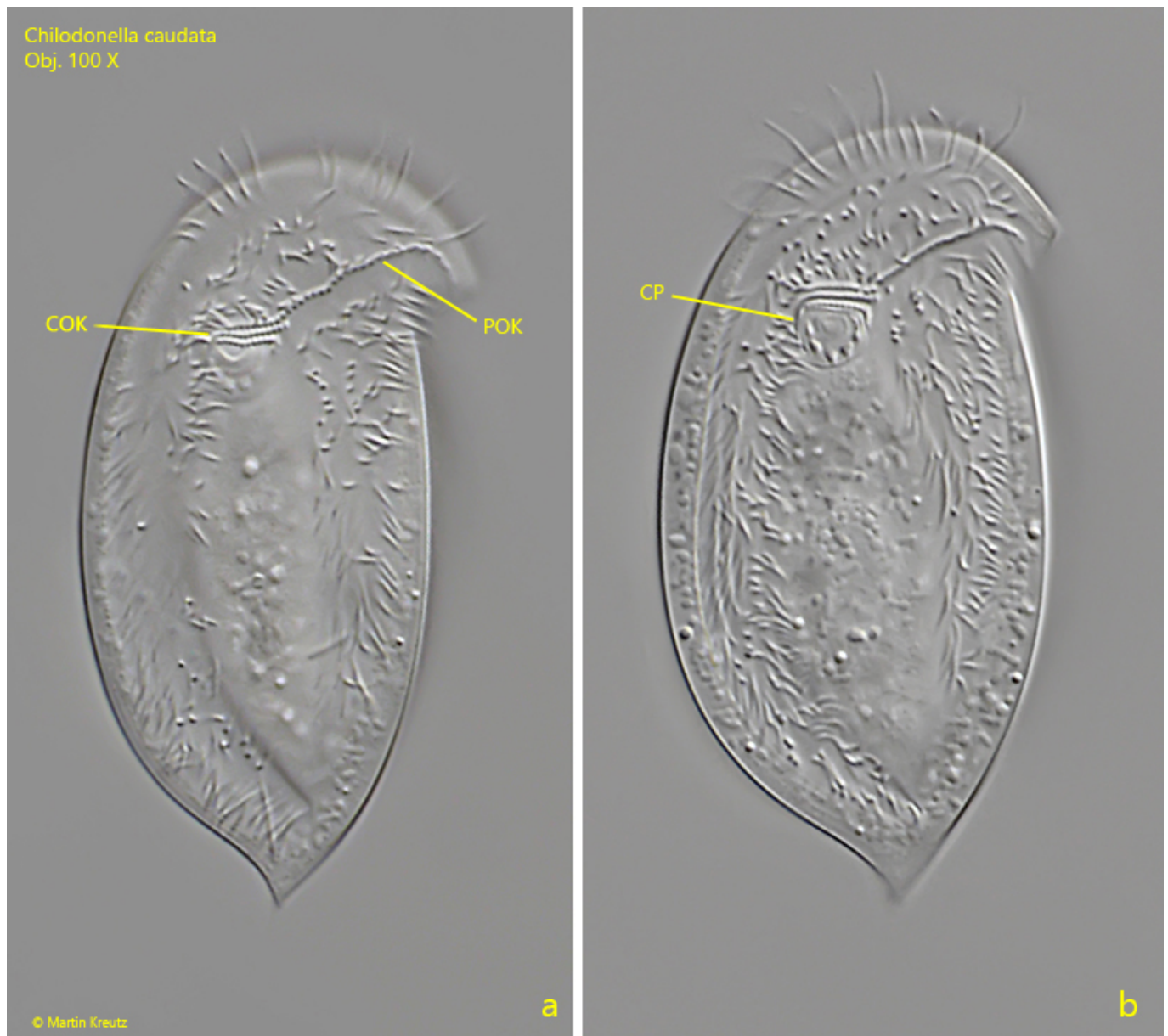


Fig. 2 a-b: *Chilodonella caudata*. L = 49 μ m. Two focal planes from the ventral side. Note the pre-oral kinety (POK) and the circumoral kineties (COK). CP = cytopharynx. Obj. 100 X.

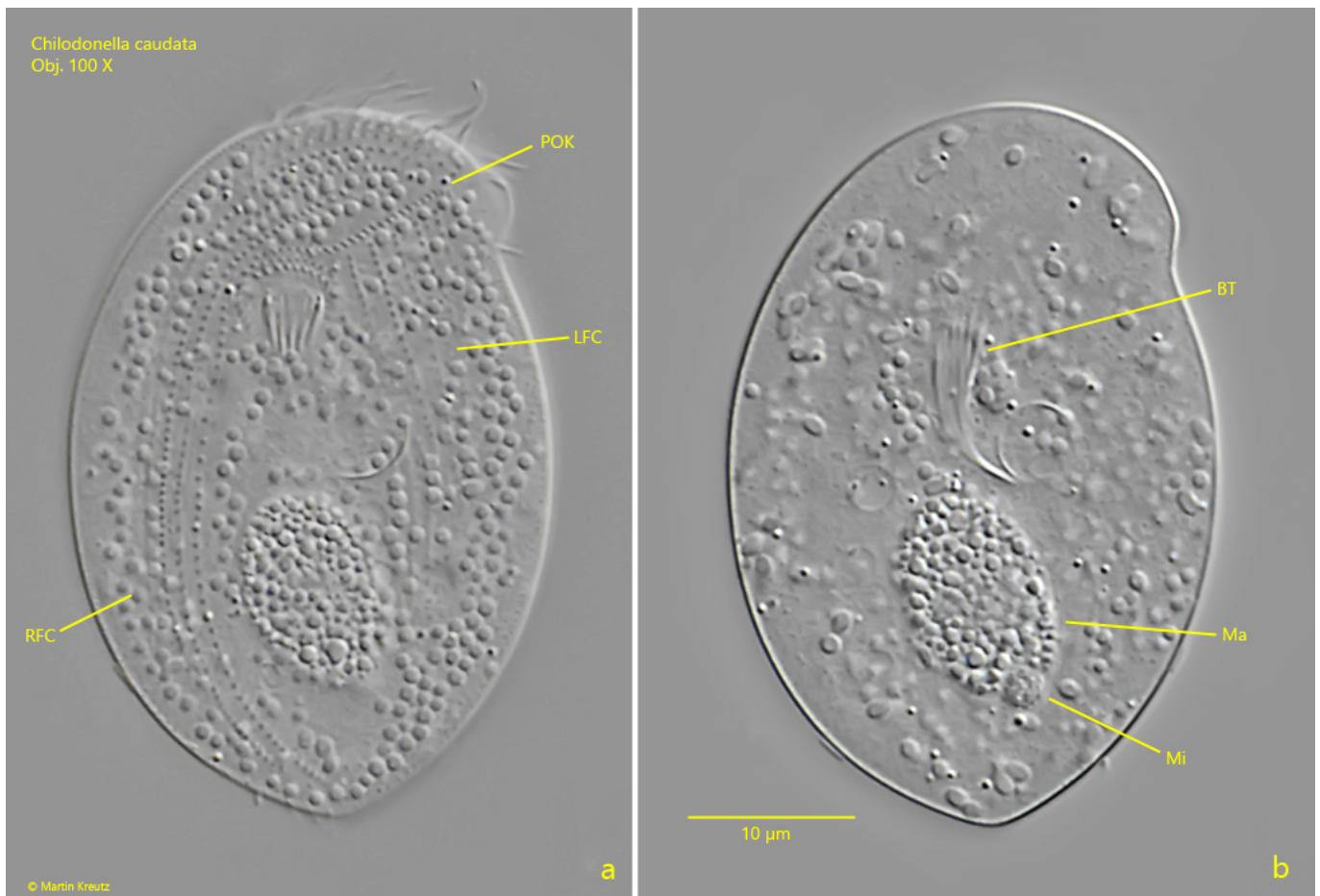


Fig. 3 a-b: *Chilodonella caudata*. Two focal planes from the ventral side of a squashed specimen. The ciliation of the ventral side is divided in a left field of cilia (LFC) and a right field of cilia (RFC) while the middle is naked. BT = basket of trichites, Ma = macronucleus, Mi = micronucleus, POK = pre-oral kinety. Obj. 100 X.

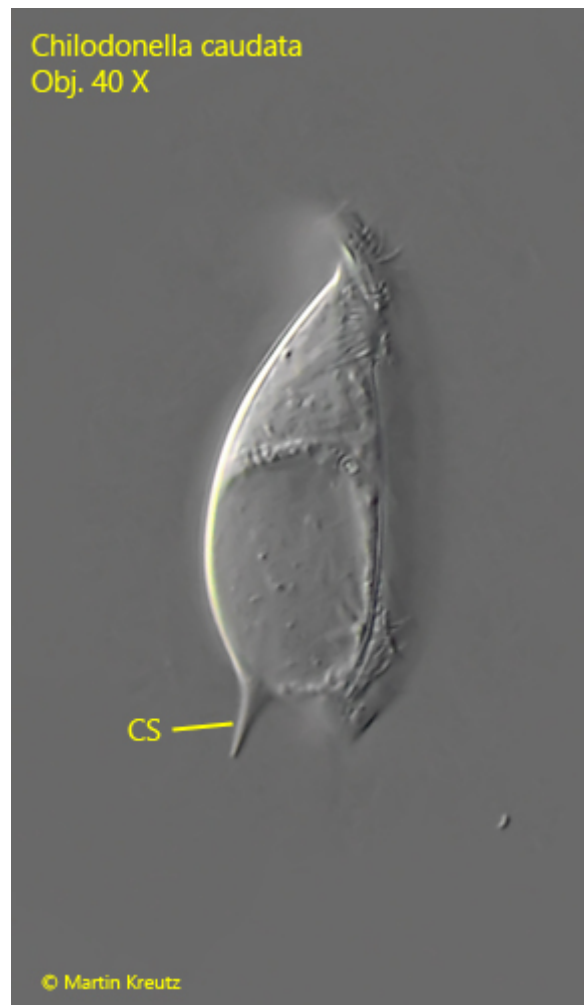


Fig. 4: *Chilodonella caudata*. Lateral view from the right side. Note the distinct caudal spine (CS) on the dorsal side. Obj. 100 X.

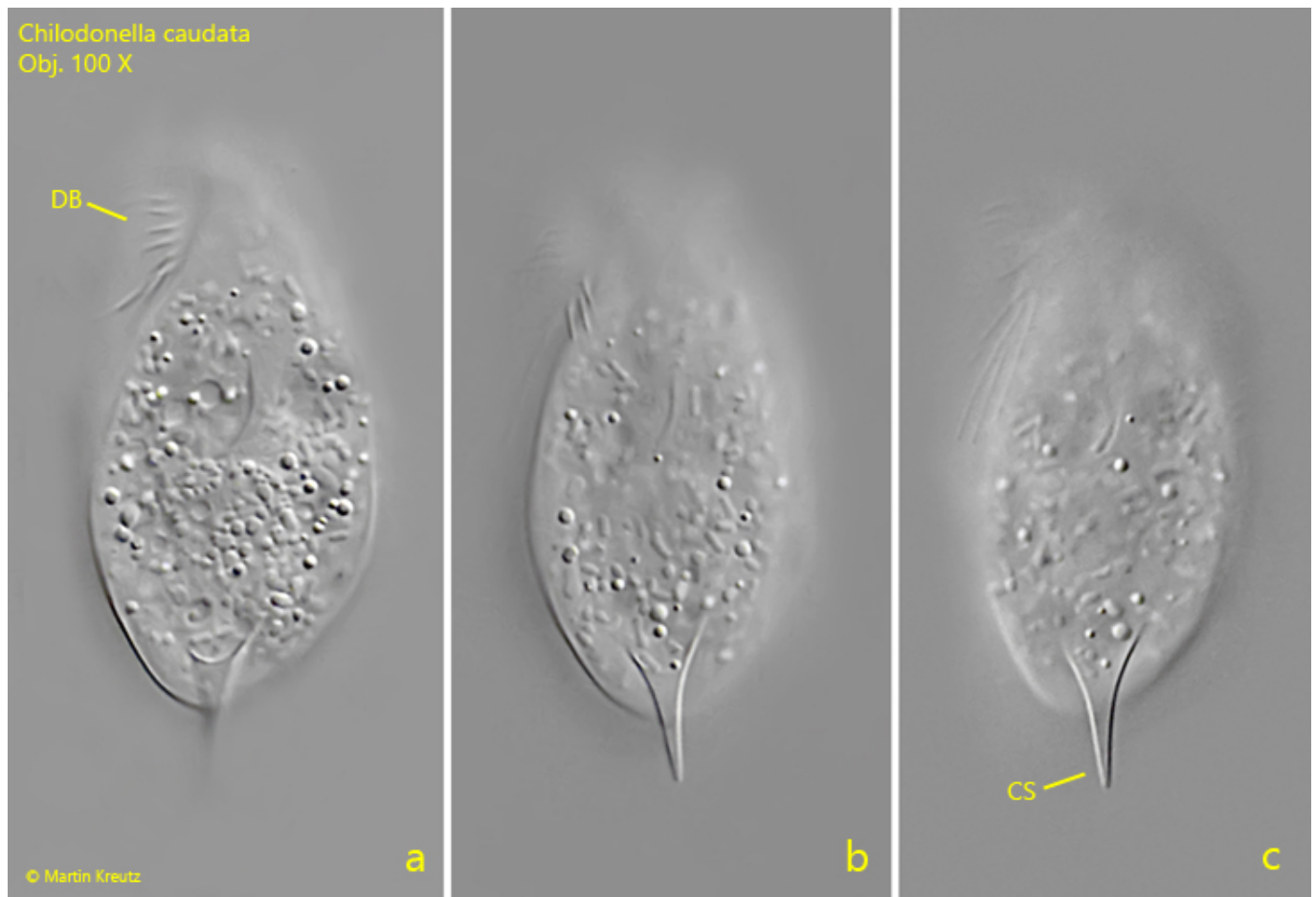


Fig. 5 a-c: *Chilodonella caudata*. L = 37 μ m. Dorsal view of a freely gliding specimen with the distinct caudal spine (CS). DB = dorsal brush. Obj. 100 X.

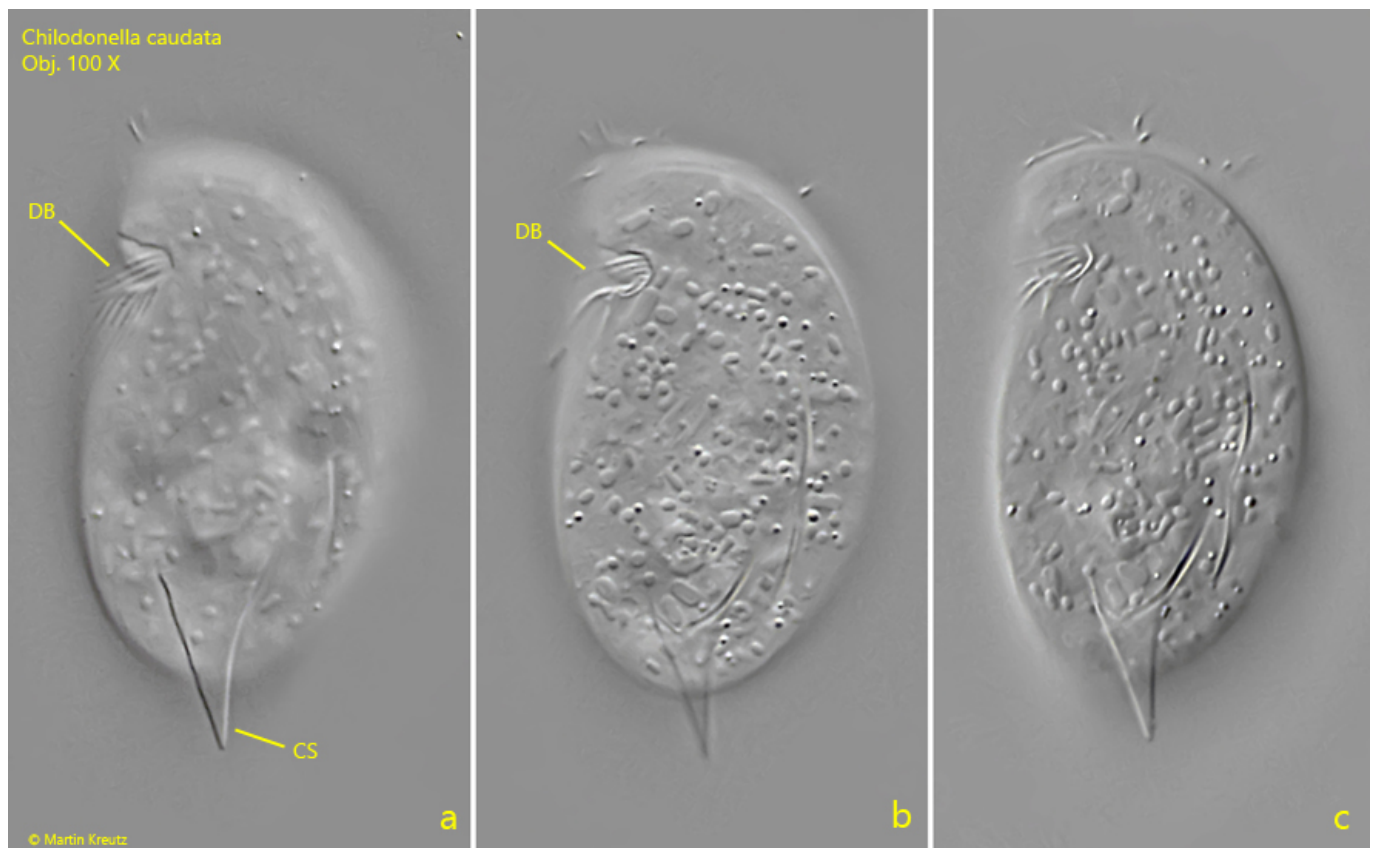


Fig. 6 a-c: *Chilodonella caudata*. L = 37 μm . The slightly squashes specimen as shown in fig. 5 a-c with focal plane on the dorsal brush (DB). The dorsal brush is located in a depression of the pellicle. Obj. 100 X.

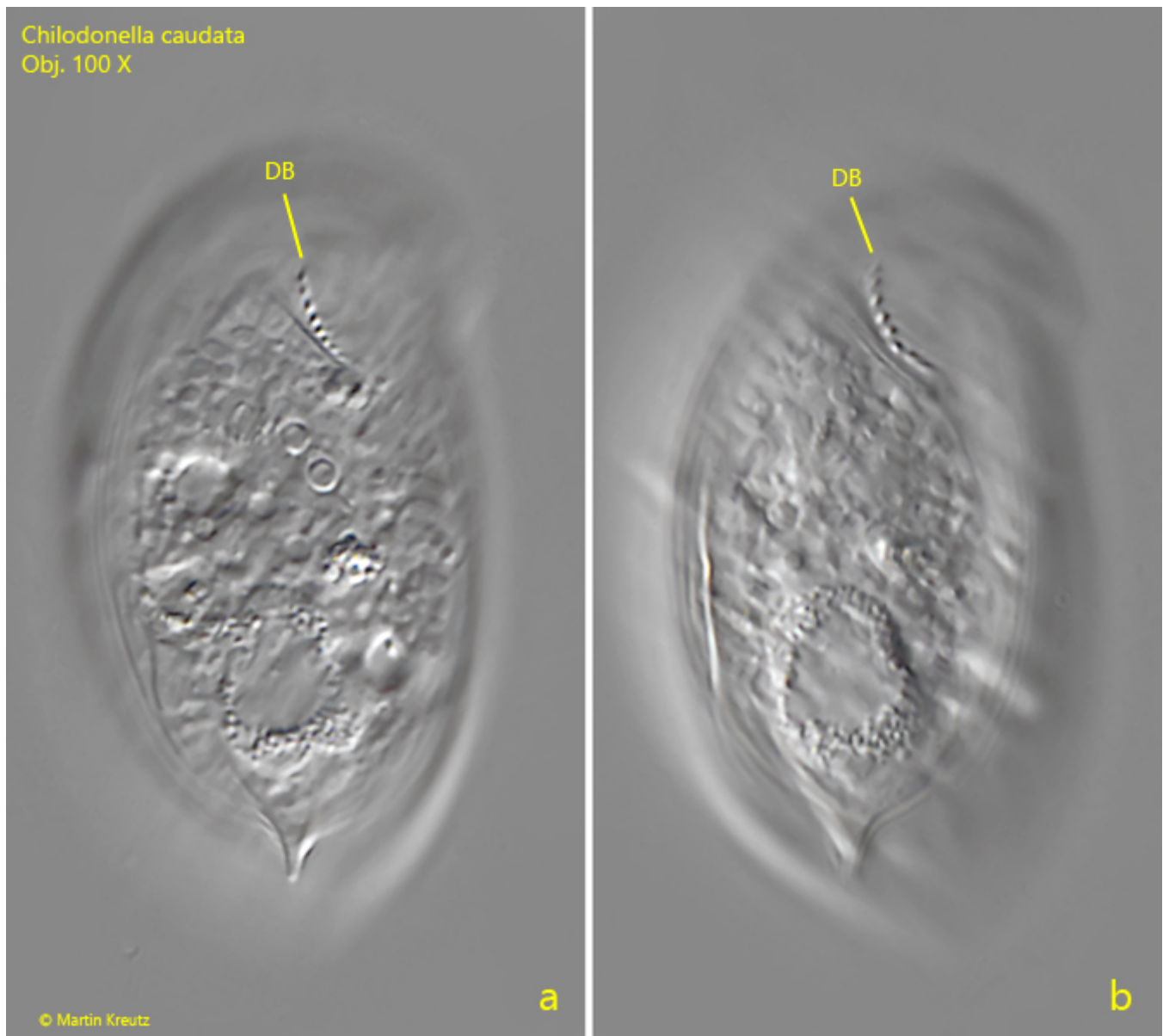


Fig. 7 a-b: *Chilodonella caudata*. L = 49 μm . Focal plane on the dorsal brush (DB) from the ventral side. Obj. 100 X.

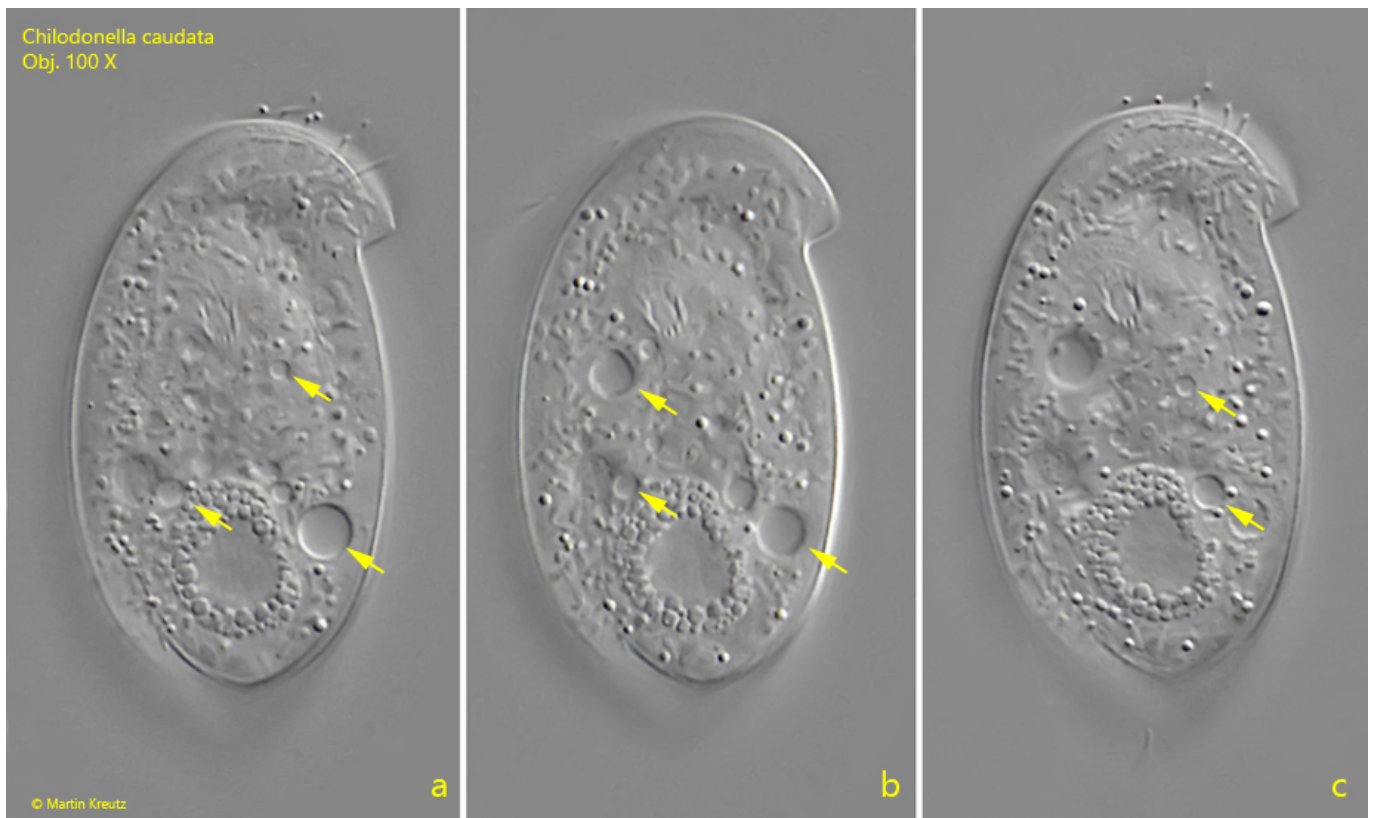


Fig. 8 a-c: *Chilodonella caudata*. L = 44 μ m. Ventral view with focal plane on the contractile vacuoles. In this specimen five contractile vacuole (arrows) are visible. Obj. 100 X.