

## ***Coleps amphacanthus* (Ehrernberg, 1834)**

**Most likely ID:** n.a.

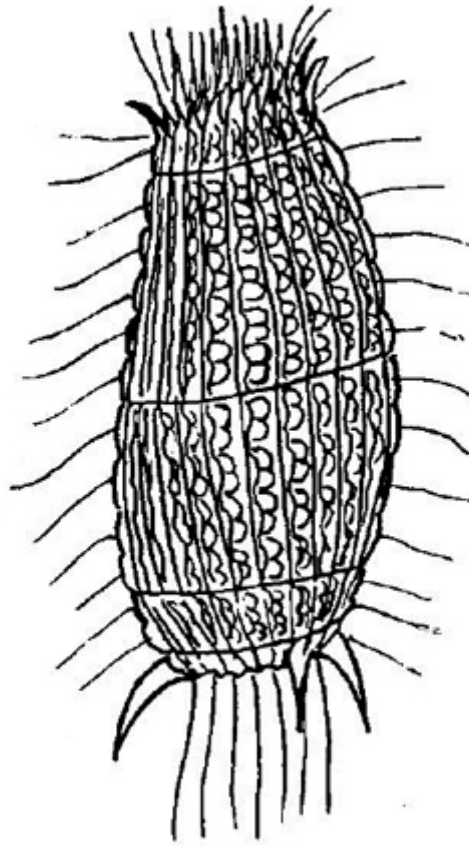
**Synonym:** n.a.

**Sampling location:** [Simmelried](#), [Purren pond](#), [Mainau pond](#), [Bussenried](#), [Bündtlisried](#), [Ulmisried](#), [Mühlhalden pond](#)

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Coleps amphacanthus](#)

### **Diagnosis:**

- body asymmetrical sac-shaped, sometimes barrel-shaped
- length 70-90 µm
- 3 posterior spines
- 4 anterior spines
- uniform ciliation
- 24-28 longitudinal rows of plates
- “windows” in armour pretzel-shaped
- anterior main plate with 5 “windows”
- posterior main plate with 4 “windows”
- 4-8 caudal cilia
- macronucleus spherical in mid-body
- apical mouth opening with basket of pharyngeal trichites
- contractile vacuole subterminal



after Kahl

*Coleps amphacanthus*

I find *Coleps amphacanthus* very common in almost all of my sampling locations. This member of Coleps is slightly larger than the other Coleps species and is conspicuous by its sac-shape, even at small magnifications. Furthermore, this species has 4-8 caudal cilia (s. figs. 1 a and 2 b). The windows in the armour are pretzel-shaped as in [Coleps hirtus](#). However, *Coleps amphacanthus* has 5 windows in the anterior main plate and only 4 windows in the posterior main plate (s. fig. 4 a) while [Coleps hirtus](#) has only 4 windows in each of the two main plates.

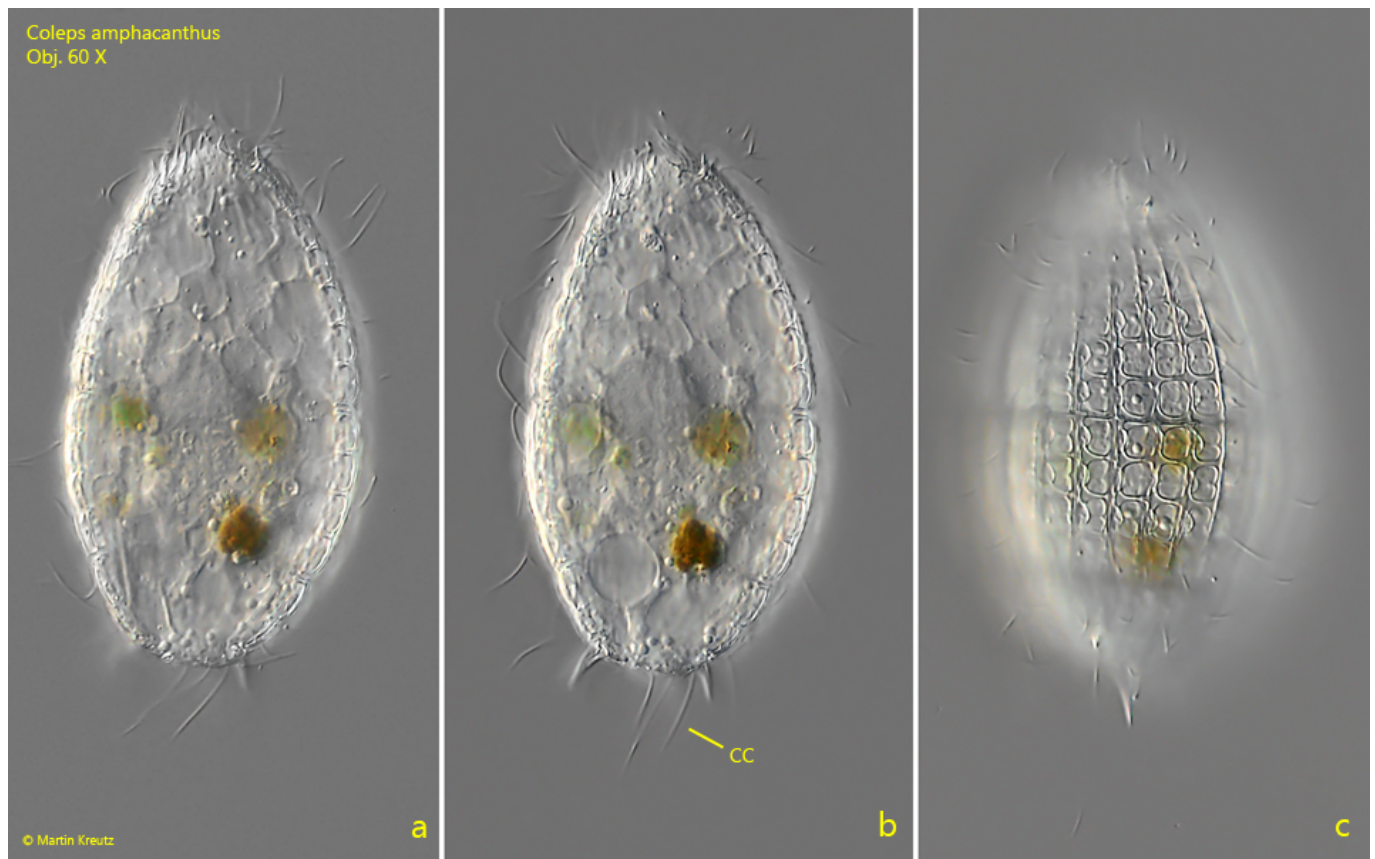
*Coleps amphacanthus* is a scavenger that quickly gathers on dead or injured protozoans or metazoans. This process is probably controlled by chemotaxis, with *Coleps amphacanthus* following the concentration gradient to the prey.



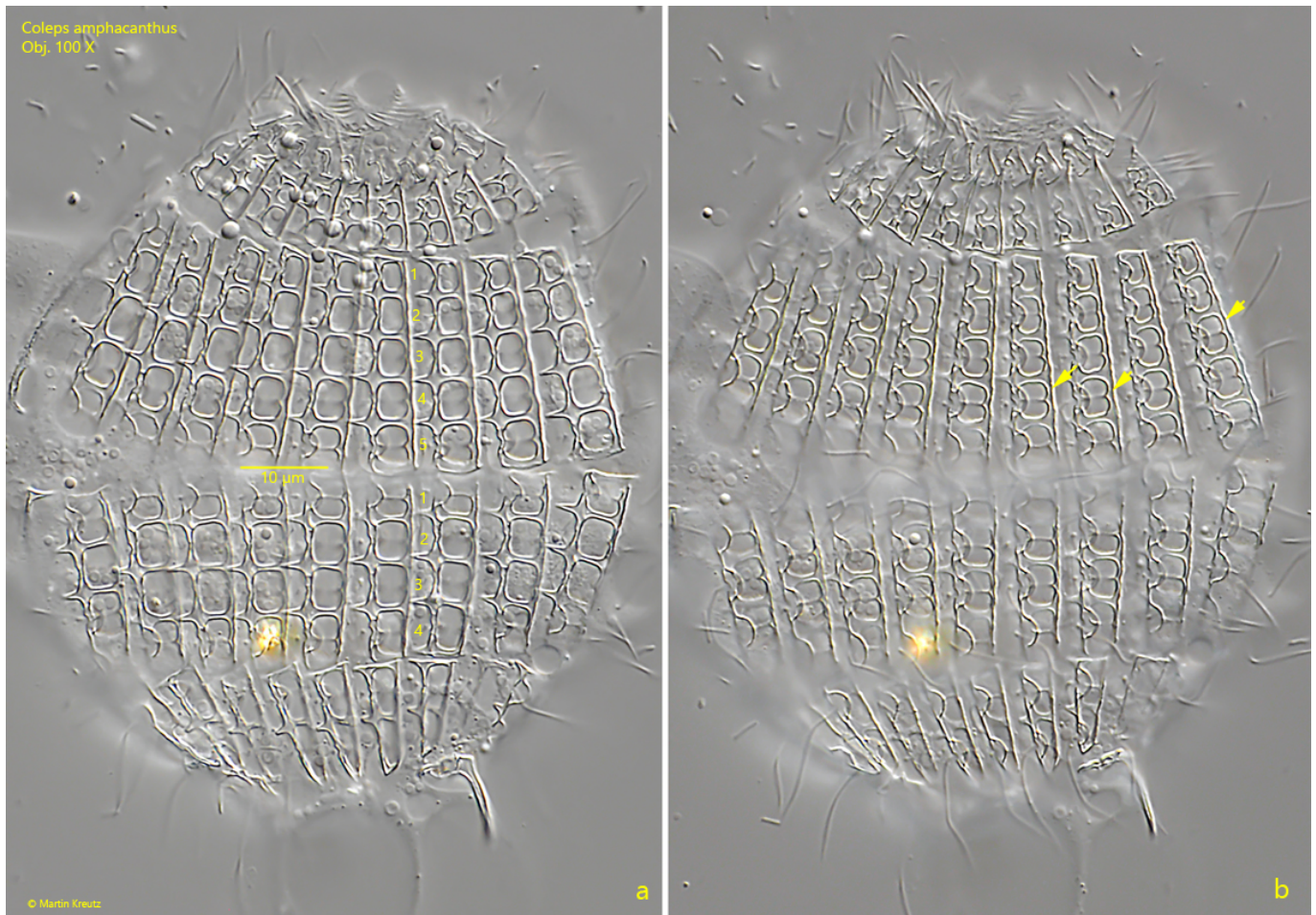
**Fig. 1 a-d:** *Coleps amphacanthus*. L = 85  $\mu$ m. A freely swimming specimen. AS = anterior spines, CC = caudal cilia, Ma = macronucleus. PS = posterior spines. Obj. 40 X.



**Fig. 2 a-b:** *Coleps amphacanthus*. L = 83  $\mu$ m. A second freely swimming specimen. CC = caudal cilia. Obj. 40 X.



**Fig. 3 a-c:** *Coleps amphacanthus*. L = 80  $\mu$ m. Different focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen. CC = caudal cilia. Obj. 60 X.



**Fig. 4 a-b:** *Coleps amphacanthus*. Two focal planes of the armour in a strongly squashed specimen. The anterior main plate has 5 “windows” (1-5) while the posterior main plate has only 4 “windows” (1-4). The windows are pretzel-shaped (arrows). Obj. 100 X.