

***Coleps hirtus* Nitzsch, 1817**

Most likely ID: n.a.

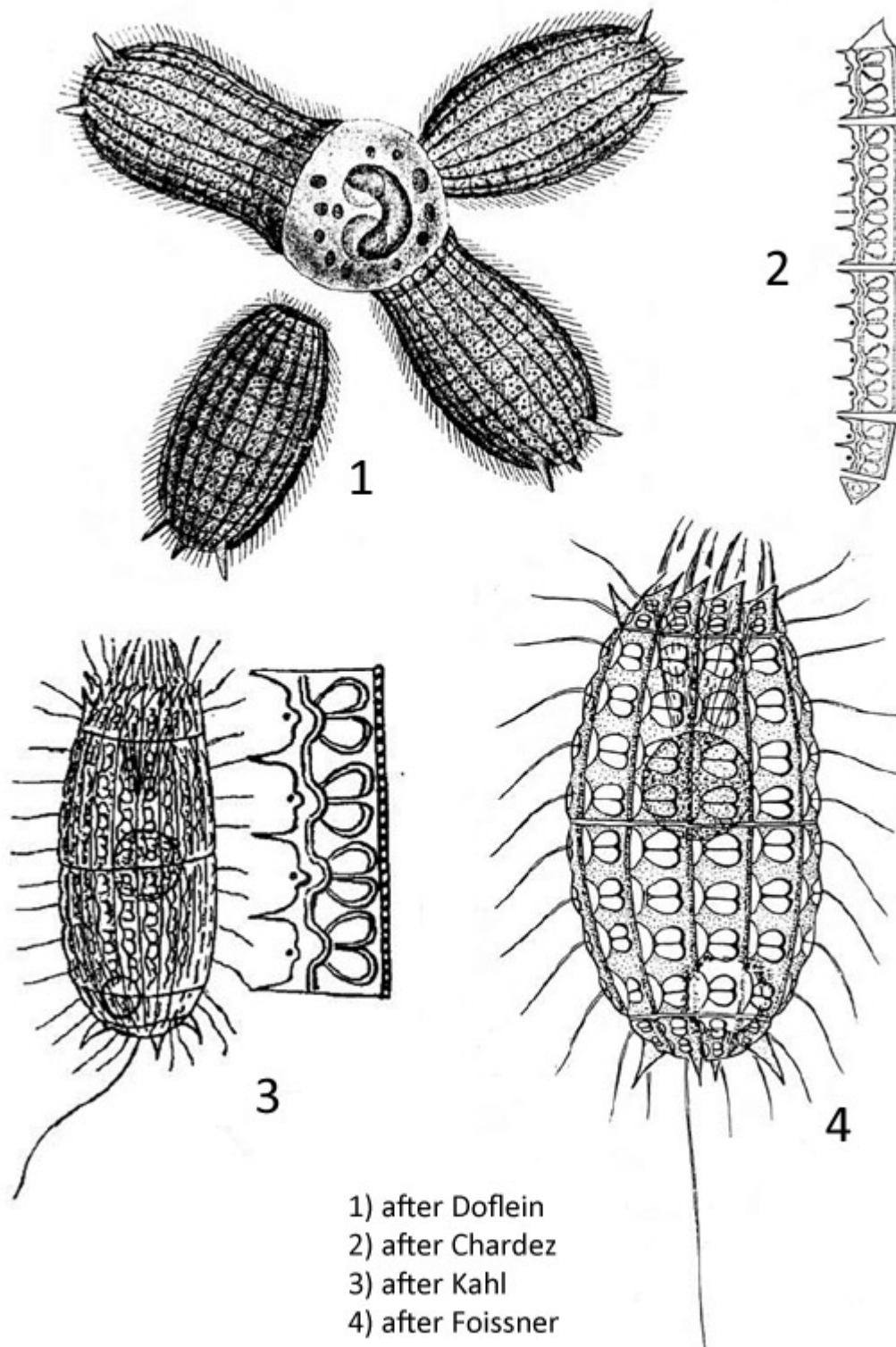
Synonym: n.a.

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

Phylogenetic tree: [Coleps hirtus](#)

Diagnosis:

- length 40–65 µm
- cell barrel-shaped
- CV terminal
- uniform ciliation
- 15–20 longitudinal rows of plates
- anterior and posterior main plate with 4 “windows” each
- one caudal cilium
- macronucleus spherical
- apical mouth opening with basket
- three spines at posterior end
- shape of the “windows” in the armour pretzel-shaped



Coleps hirtus

Coleps hirtus is one of the most common ciliates ever. I find it throughout the year in all my localities. With low magnifications (< Obj. 40X) the identification can be difficult. Confusion with other *Coleps* species is then not impossible. Therefore the investigation of the plates and form of the "windows" in the armour with the 100 X lens is necessary. *Coleps hirtus* has clearly pretzel-shaped windows in the armour. Also, the number of caudal cilia should be checked in any case. There should be

only one caudal cilium. The “windows” of *Coleps hirtus* are pretzel-shaped, like in *Coleps elongatus*. However, *Coleps elongatus* has 5 “windows” in a row per half cell, while *Coleps hirtus* has only 4 “windows” per half cell (s. fig. 6).

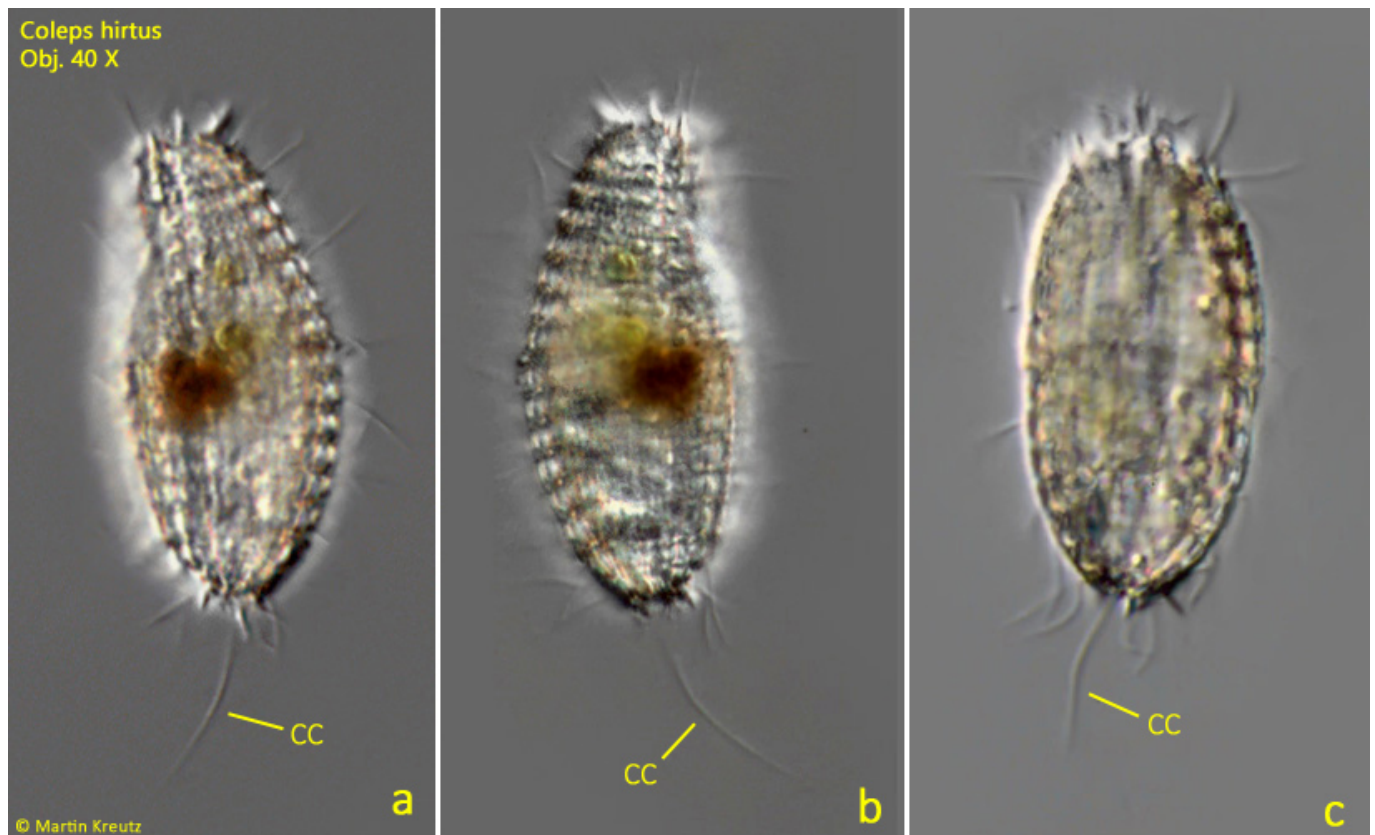


Fig. 1 a-c: *Coleps hirtus*. L = 67 μ m. A freely swimming specimen. CC = caudal cilium. Obj. 40 X.

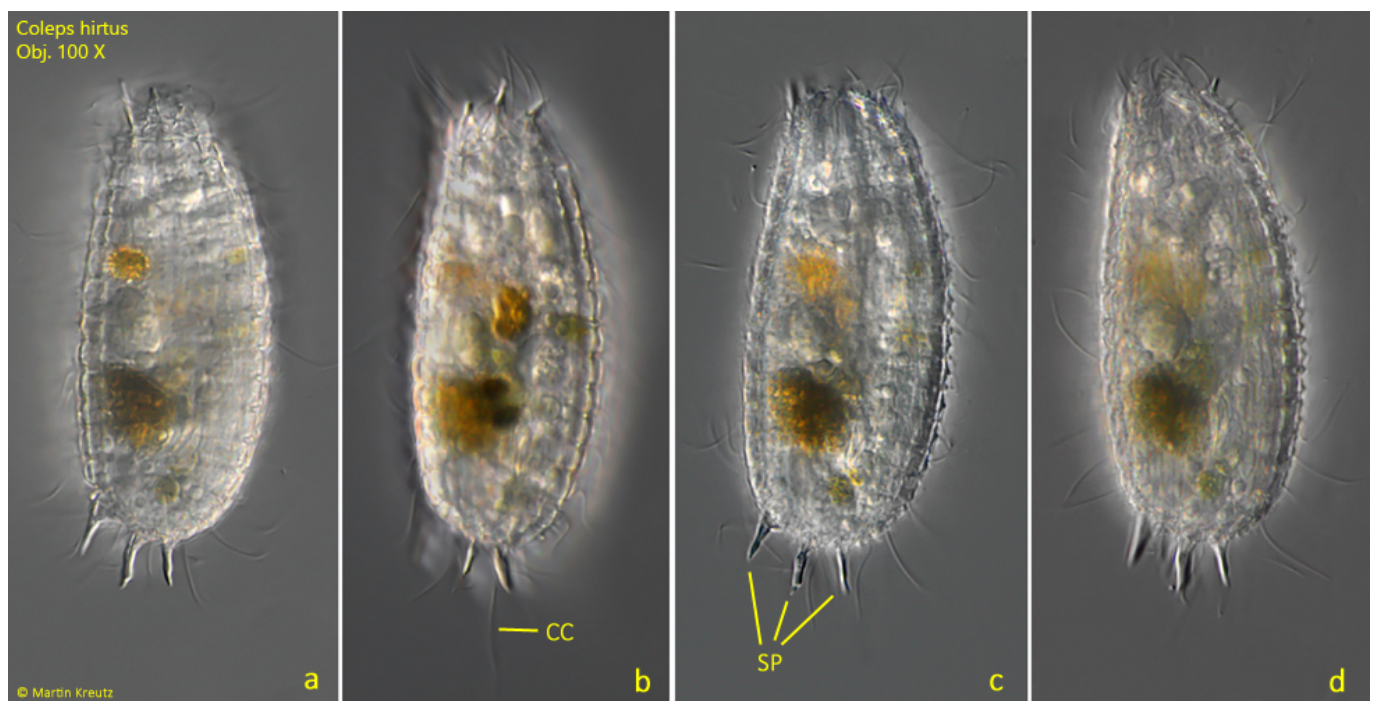


Fig. 2 a-d: *Coleps hirtus*. L = 62 μ m. A second freely swimming specimen. CC =

caudal cilium, SP = posterior spines. Obj. 100 X.

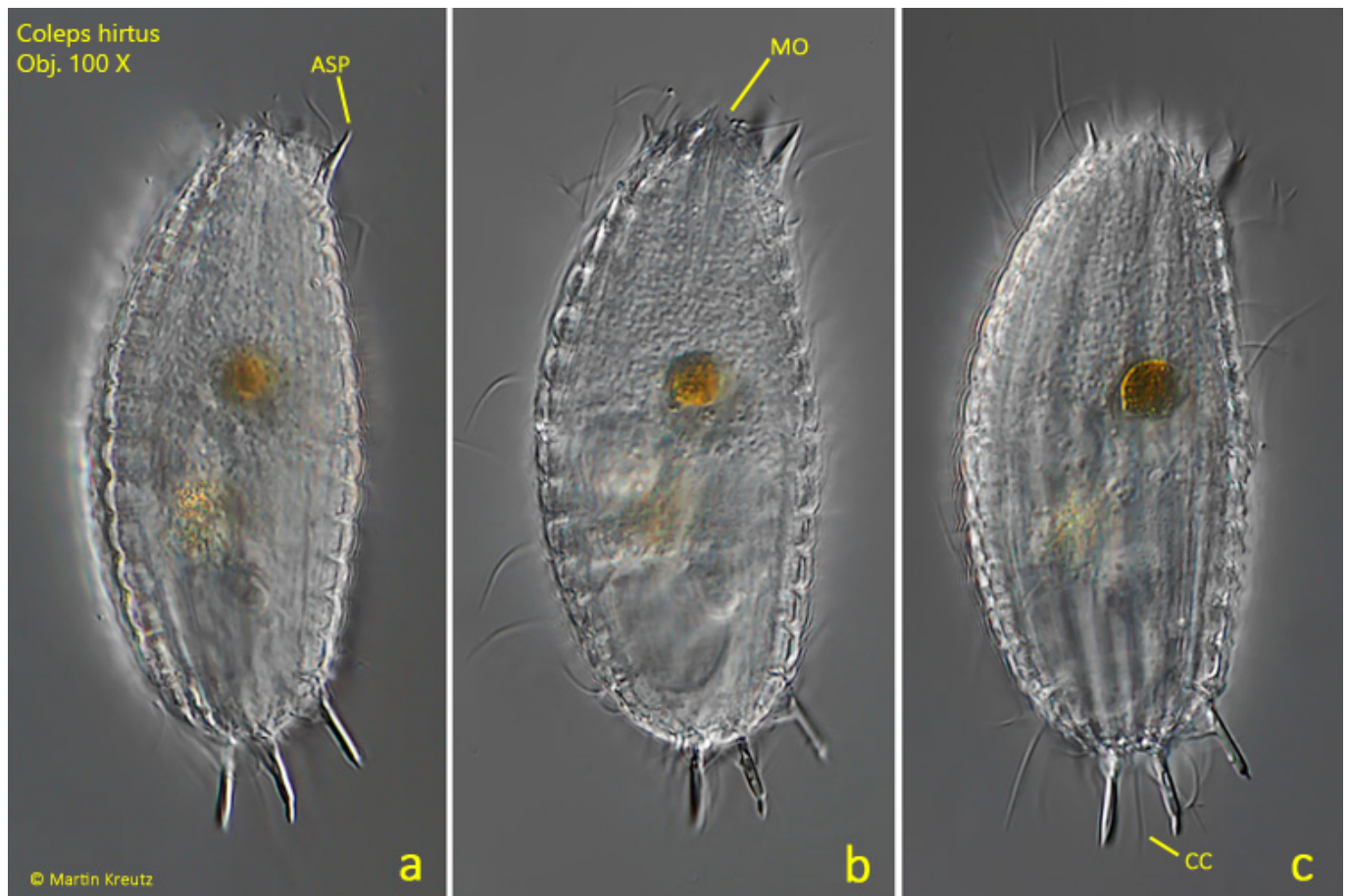


Fig. 3 a-c: *Coleps hirtus*. L = 71 μ m. A third freely swimming specimen. ASP = apical spines, CC = caudal cilium, MO = mouth opening. Obj. 100 X.

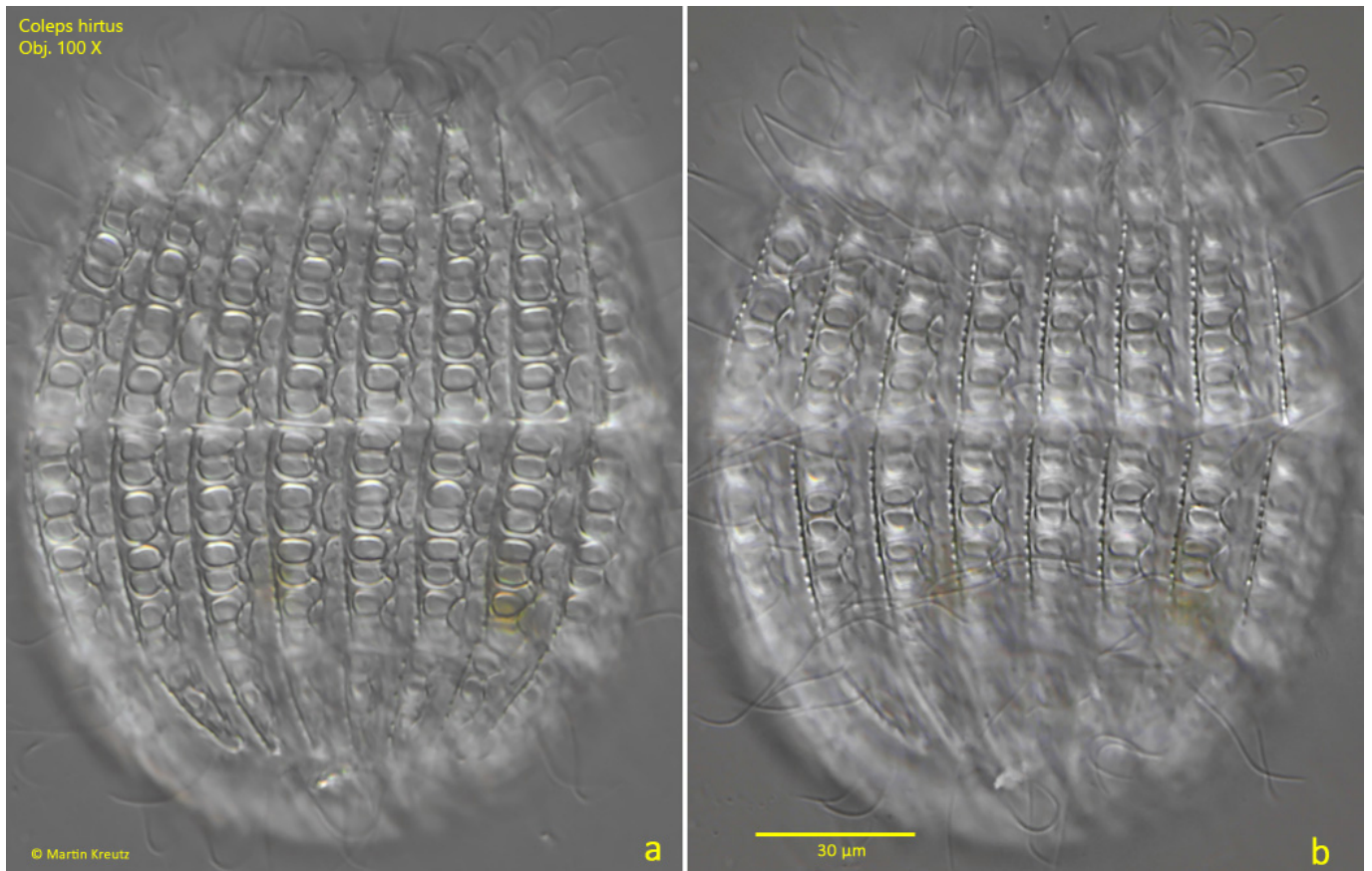


Fig. 4: *Coleps hirtus*. Two focal planes on the plates of the armour of a squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.

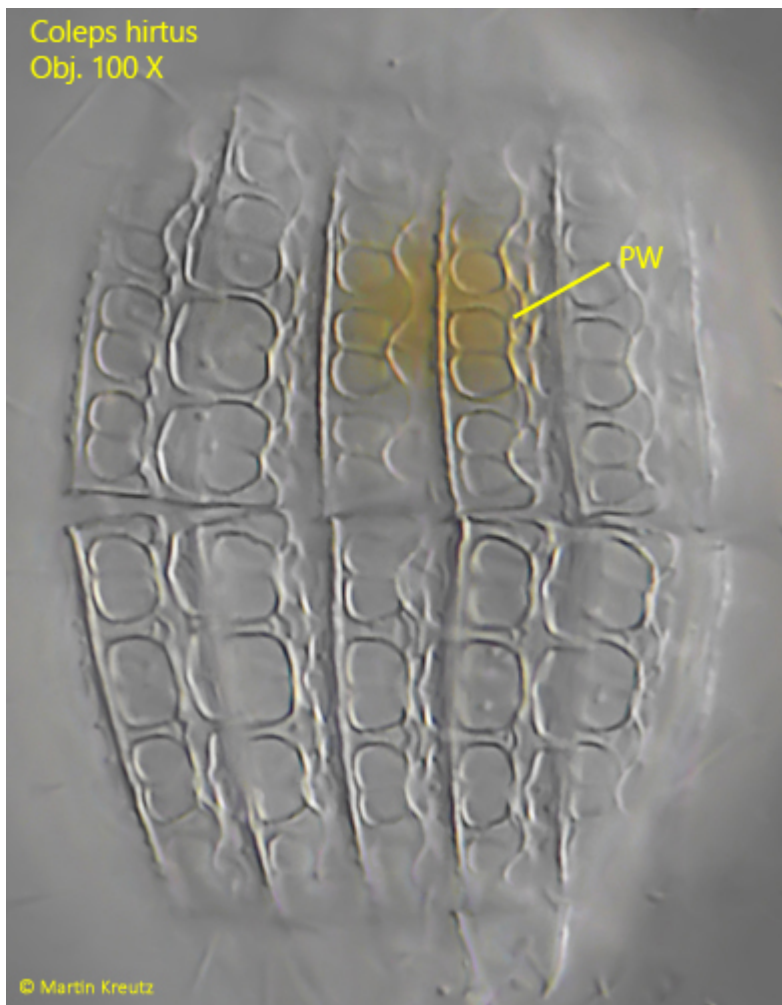


Fig. 5: *Coleps hirtus*. The pretzel-shaped “windows”(PW) in the armour of a squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.

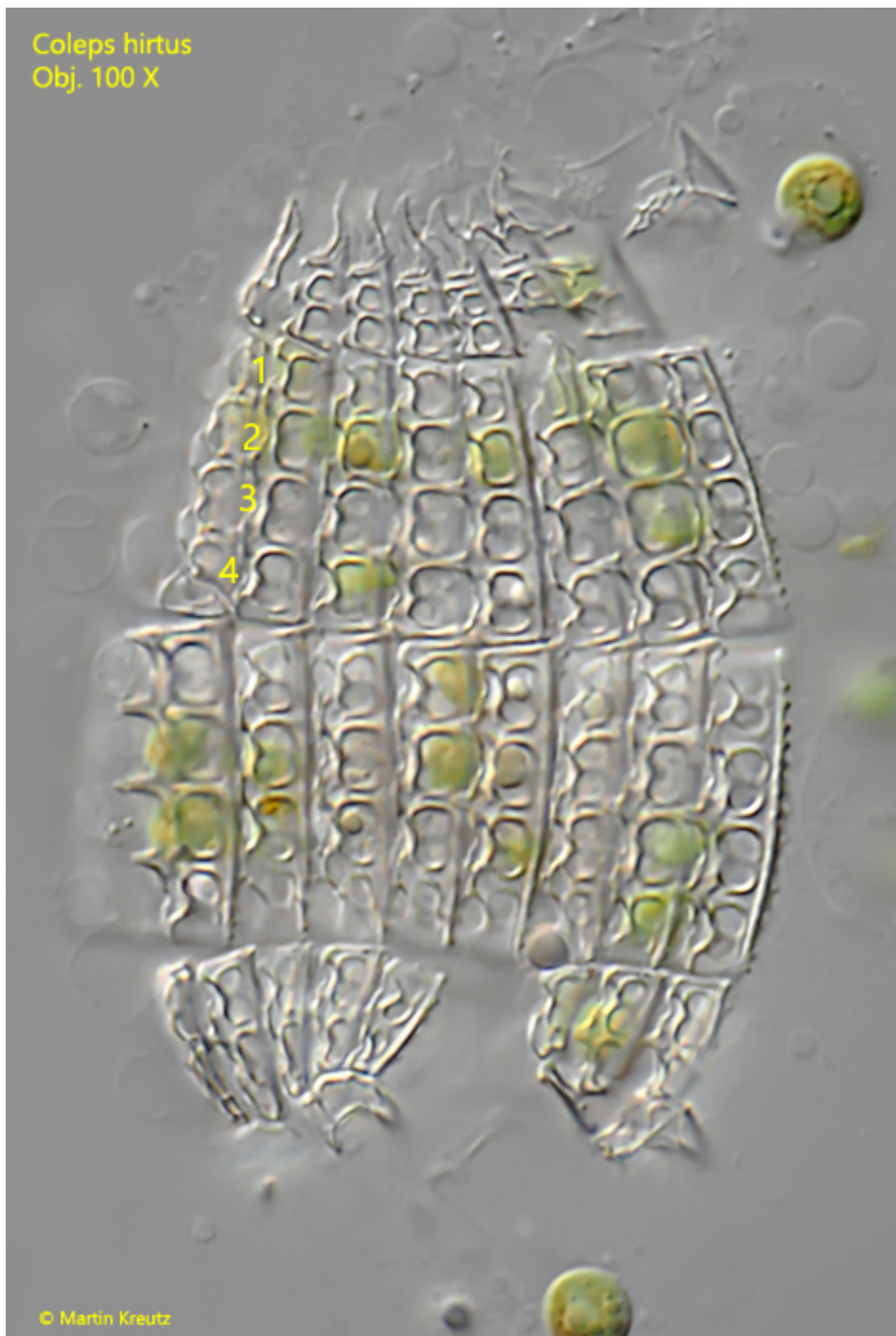


Fig. 6: *Coleps hirtus*. In the anterior main plate as well as in the posterior main plate are 4 “windows” (1-4) each. Obj. 100 X.