

***Colurella obtusa* Gosse, 1886**

Most likely ID: n.a.

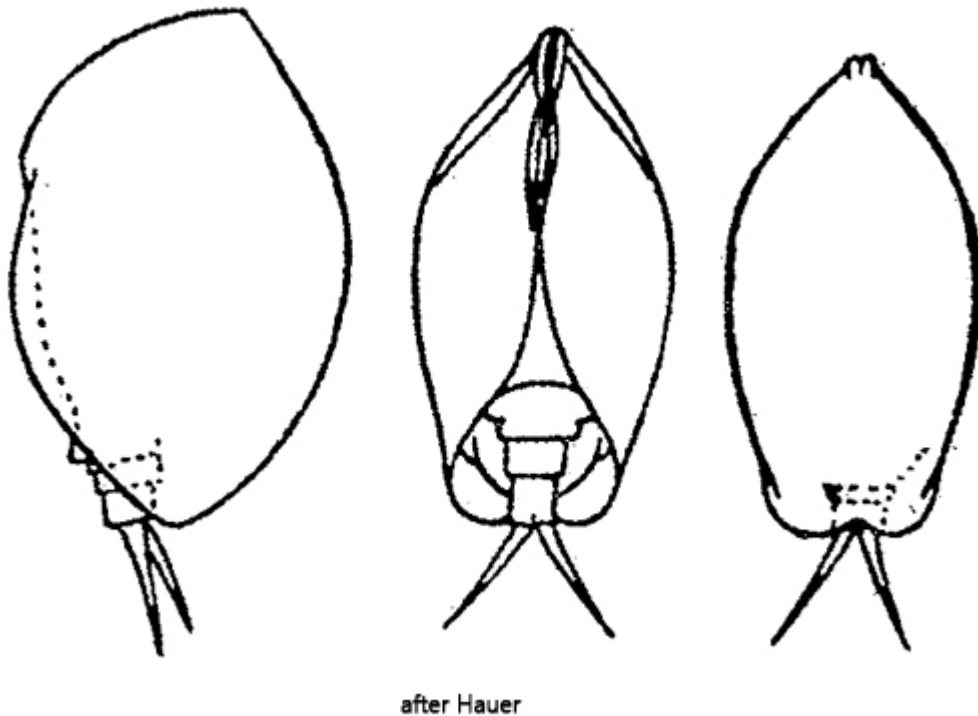
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#), [Purren pond](#), [Ulmisried](#), [Mainau pond](#), [Pond of the convent Hegne](#), [Bussenried](#), [Bündtlisried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Colurella obtusa](#)

Diagnosis:

- body obovoid
- lorica of two lateral plates, appear mussel-shaped
- length 70–90 µm (inclusive foot and toes)
- semi-circular hood covers corona
- anterior margin sloping ventrally
- posterior margin rounded or slightly pointed
- two lateral eyespots
- terminal foot segment short
- toes slender and sharply pointed (14–18 µm)



Colurella obtusa

I find *Colurella obtusa* in almost all of my sampling sites, mostly among floating and decomposing plant material. The lorica of *Colurella* is similar in structure to a mussel shell. The two halves have an apical and ventral gap. This gap can close tightly when disturbed. *Colurella* also has a semi-circular hood that protects the corona (s. fig. 1 b).

The different species within the genus *Colurella* can essentially be distinguished by the shape of the lorica. In *Colurella obtusa*, the posterior end is either rounded or very slightly pointed (s. fig. 1 a). However, there is no spine at the posterior end, as in [Colurella uncinata](#). The anterior margin of the lorica slopes downwards towards the ventral side (s. fig. 2). At the transition to the dorsal side, the lorica also forms a slight apical point (s. fig. 2).

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

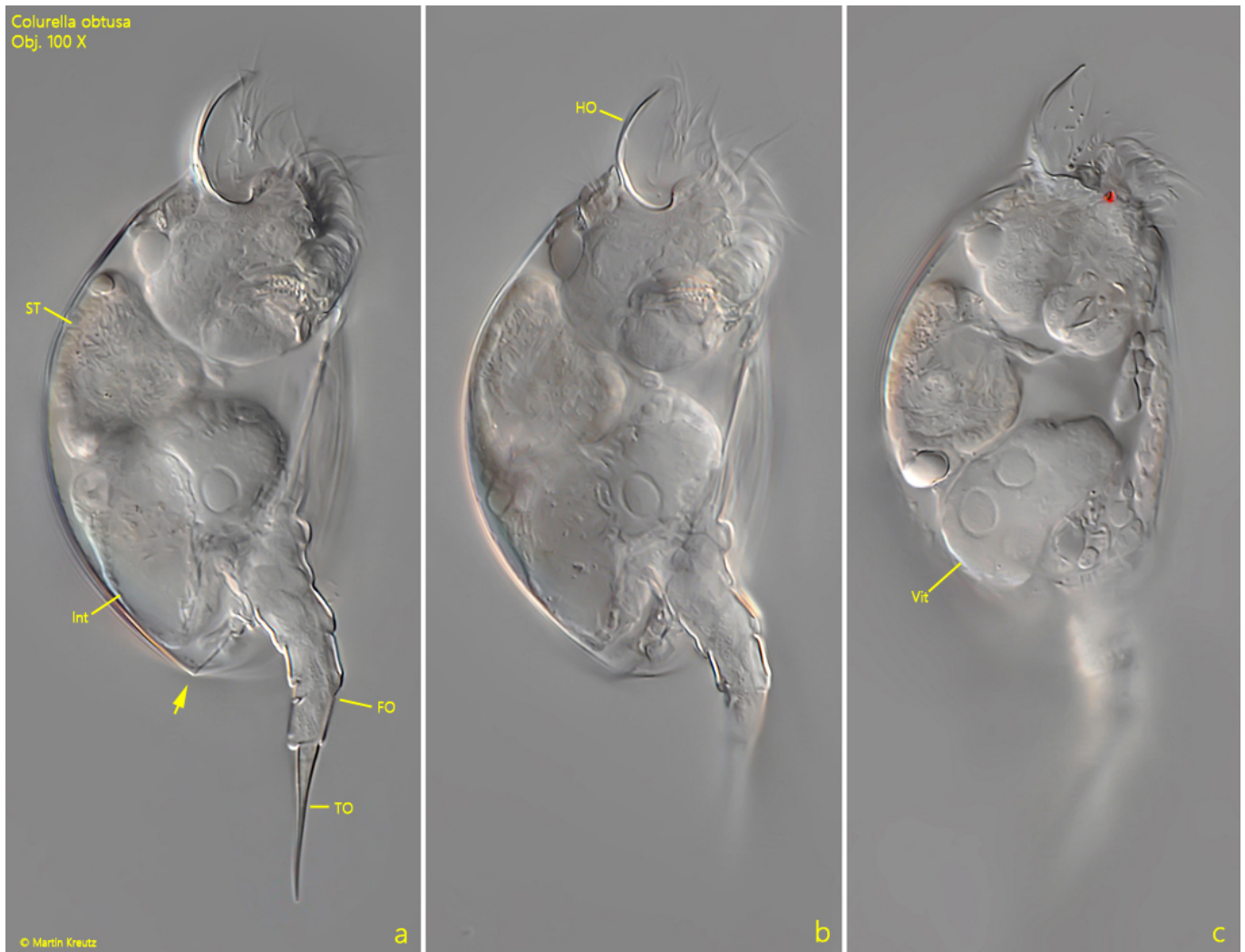


Fig. 1 a-c: *Colurella obtusa*. L = 90 μ m (total length). Different focal plans of a freely swimming specimen from right. Note the semi-circular hood (HO) covering the corona and the slightly pointed posterior margin of the lorica (arrow). FO = foot, Int = intestine, ST = stomach, TO = toes, Vit = vitellarium. Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 2: *Colurella obtusa*. The retracted specimen as shown in fig. 1 a-c. The anterior margin is sloping to the ventral side. Note the slightly pointed border between the ventral and dorsal margin of the lorica (arrow). Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 3 a-b: *Colurella obtusa*. L = 108 μ m. Two focal planes of a second specimen. Obj. 100 X.