Cosmarium sexnotatum Gutwinski 1893

Most likely ID: n.a.

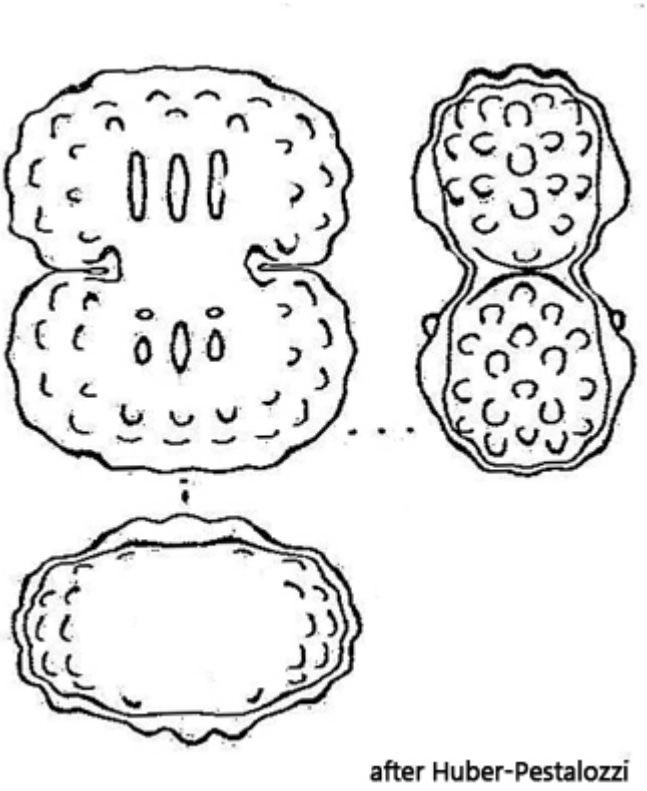
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Lake Constance

Phylogenetic tree: *Cosmarium sexnotatum*

Diagnosis:

- cell broadly oval
- semi-cells almost oval, with convex sides
- apices slightly convex or flat, slightly wavy
- length 18–29 µm
- sinus slightly widened
- central field with 3 parallel, elliptical ridges
- below the ridges a transverse row of tubercles
- two semi-circle rows of warts parallel to margin of semi-cells
- one chloroplast with one pyrenoid per semi-cell



Cosmarium sexnotatum

In August 1994 I found *Cosmarium sexnotatum* in the plankton of Lake Constance. This is an unusual location, as this alga is actually found in bogs and alpine ponds. However, it may have been an input by tributaries. I have not found *Cosmarium sexotatum* again since 1994.

With a length of about 25 µm *Cosmarium sexnotatum* is a rather small species within the genus *Cosmarium*. However, it can be identified quite easily by the three typical parallel ridges in the central fields of the half cells (s. fig. 1 a). Sometimes these ridges can consist of two parts. The similar subspecies *Cosmarium sexnotatum* var. *tristriatum* is more compact and has only one semi-circular row of tubercles on the front side of the semi-cells (*Cosmarium sexnotatum* has two rows). In addition, the semi-cells of *Cosmarium sexnotatum* var. *tristriatum* are trapezoidal or almost rectangular in shape.

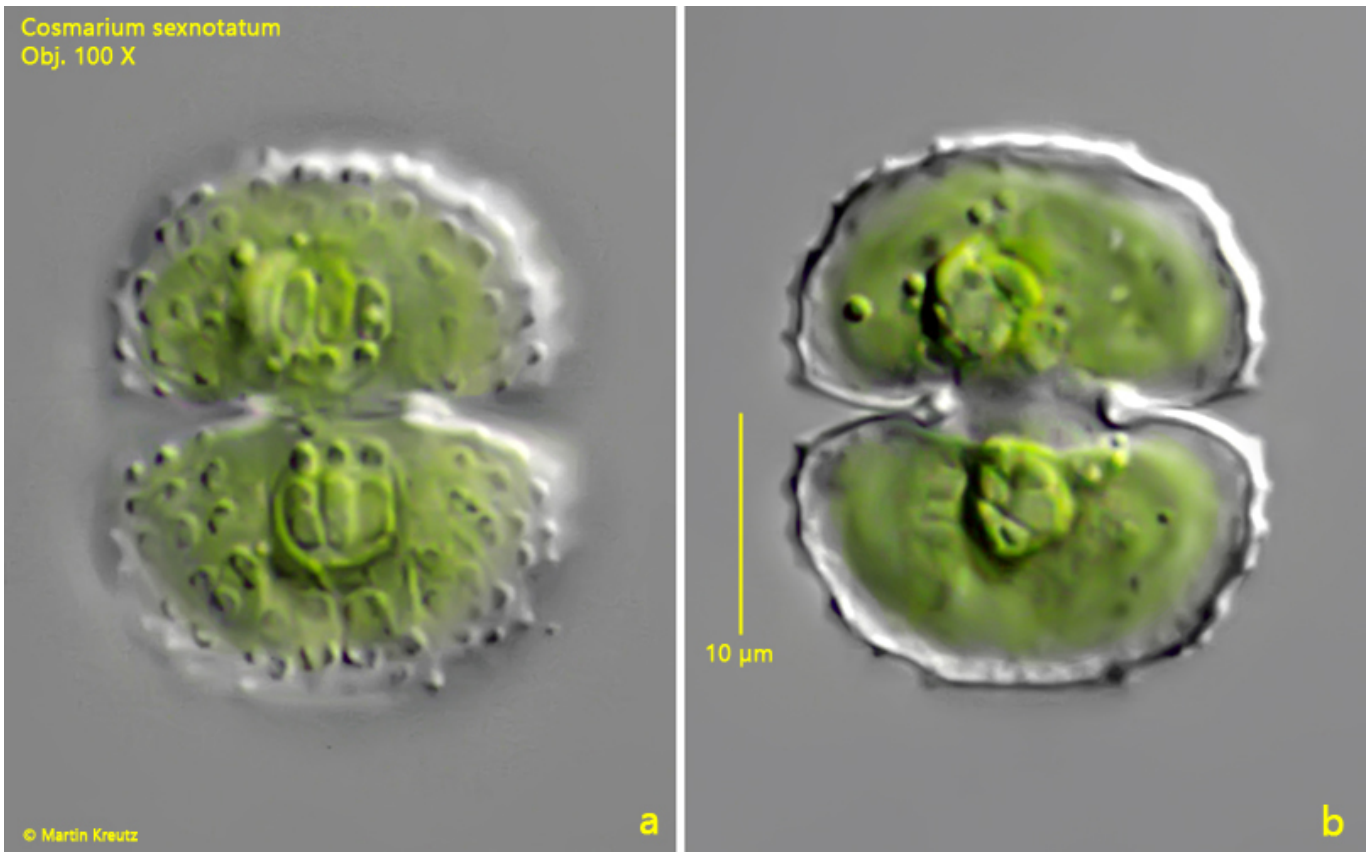


Fig. 1 a-b: *Cosmarium sexnotatum.* L = 25 µm. Two focal planes of a specimen found in August 1994 in Lake Constance. Note the three parallel ridges in the central fields of the semi-cells (a). Obj. 100 X.