Ctedoctema ovalis Kahl, 1926

Most likely ID: n.a.

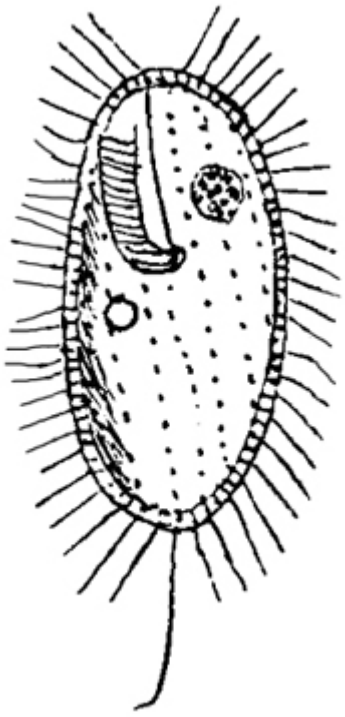
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Ctedoctema ovalis*

Diagnosis:

- body oval, dorso-ventrally slightly flattened
- length 35 µm
- peristom less than half body length
- undulating membrane posterior higher than anterior
- spherical macronucleus in anterior third
- fringe of extrusomes beneath pellicle
- contractile vacuole in mid-body, right side
- one caudal cilium



Ctedoctoema ovalis

So far I have only found a single specimen of *Ctedoctema ovalis* in the Simmelried in November 2021. However, it is possible that I have overlooked other specimens so far. At least the species seems to be rare.

Kahl (1926) also found only a few specimens of *Ctedoctema ovalis*. In his short description he speculates that it may also have been *Cyclidium centrale*. However, this species is said to be more slender in shape and Kahl also drew *Cyclidium centrale* more slender. With a length of 43 µm, my specimen of *Ctedoctema ovalis* was somewhat larger than Kahl indicated (35 µm), but the oval shape corresponds exactly with his drawing (s. drawing above). I therefore believe that *Ctedoctema ovalis* is present here, even if I cannot rule out the possibility that this species is synonymous with *Cyclidium centrale*.

Kahl was unable to recognize a frontal plate in his specimens. It is in fact very inconspicuous and can only be seen in one of the photos I made (s. fig. 1 d). I was able to recognize the undulating membrane of the peristome (s. fig. 1 a), but only in the attached state, so that I could not check whether it rises towards the posterior end, as described by Kahl. The macronucleus lies in the anterior third and, according to my observations, is surrounded by several adjacent micronuclei (s. fig. 1 e). The fringe of extrusomes under the pellicle is concise and easy to recognize. These are short rods with a length of about 1.5 µm. In the resting state the cilia are

spread out and slightly bent forward (s. fig. 1 f), as is also the case with the related species *Ctedoctema acanthocrypta*.

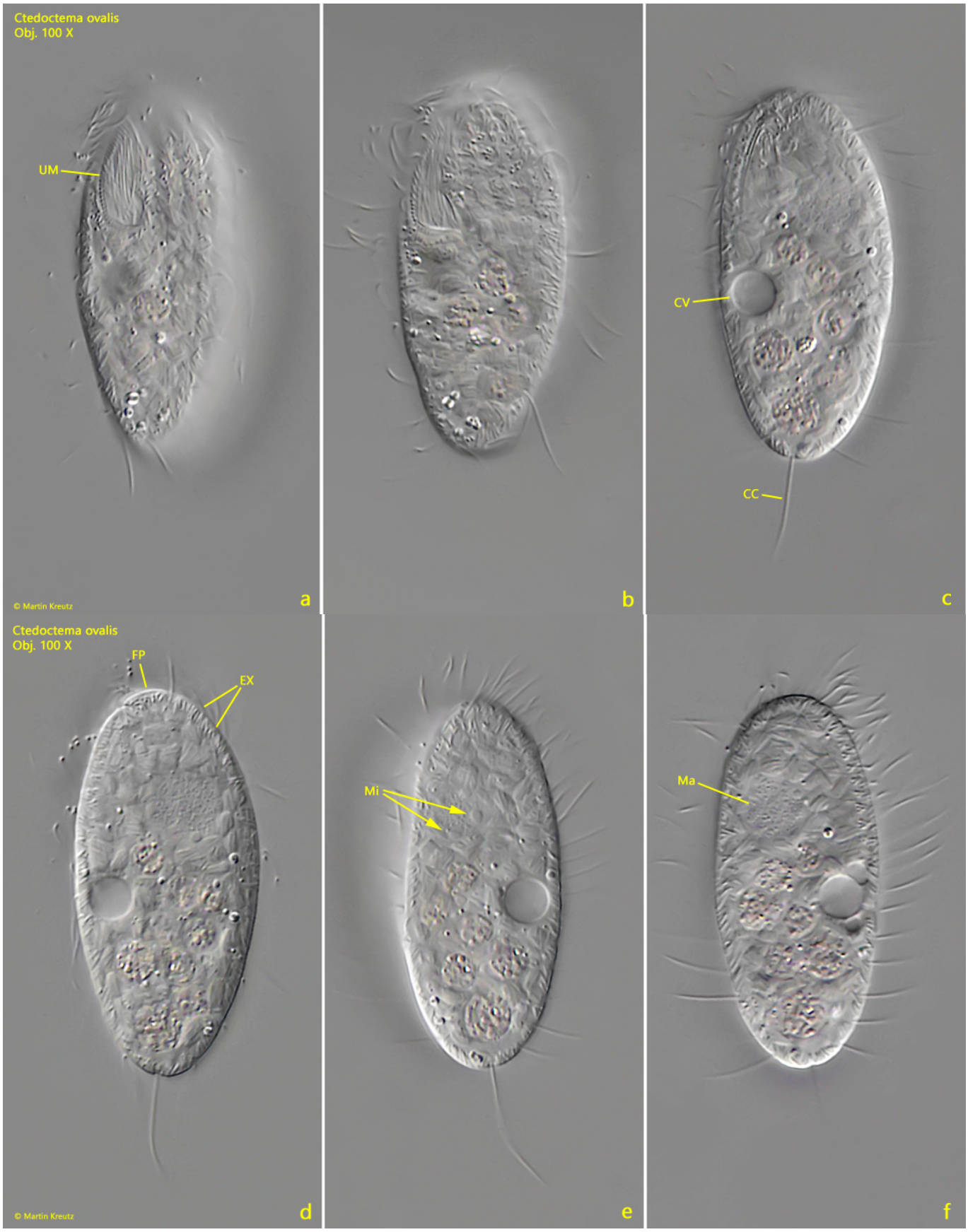


Fig. 1 a-f: *Ctedoctema ovalis.* L = 43 µm. Different focal planes of a freely

swimming specimen from ventral (a-d) and from dorsal (e, f). Note the peristome with the undulationg membrane (UM) reaching not the cell equator. The frontal plate (FP) is inconspicuous. The macronucleus (Ma) is surrounded by several micronuclei (Mi). CC = caudal cilium, EX = extrusomes. Obj. 100 X.