Ditrema mikrous De Saedeleer, 1934

Most likely ID: n.a.

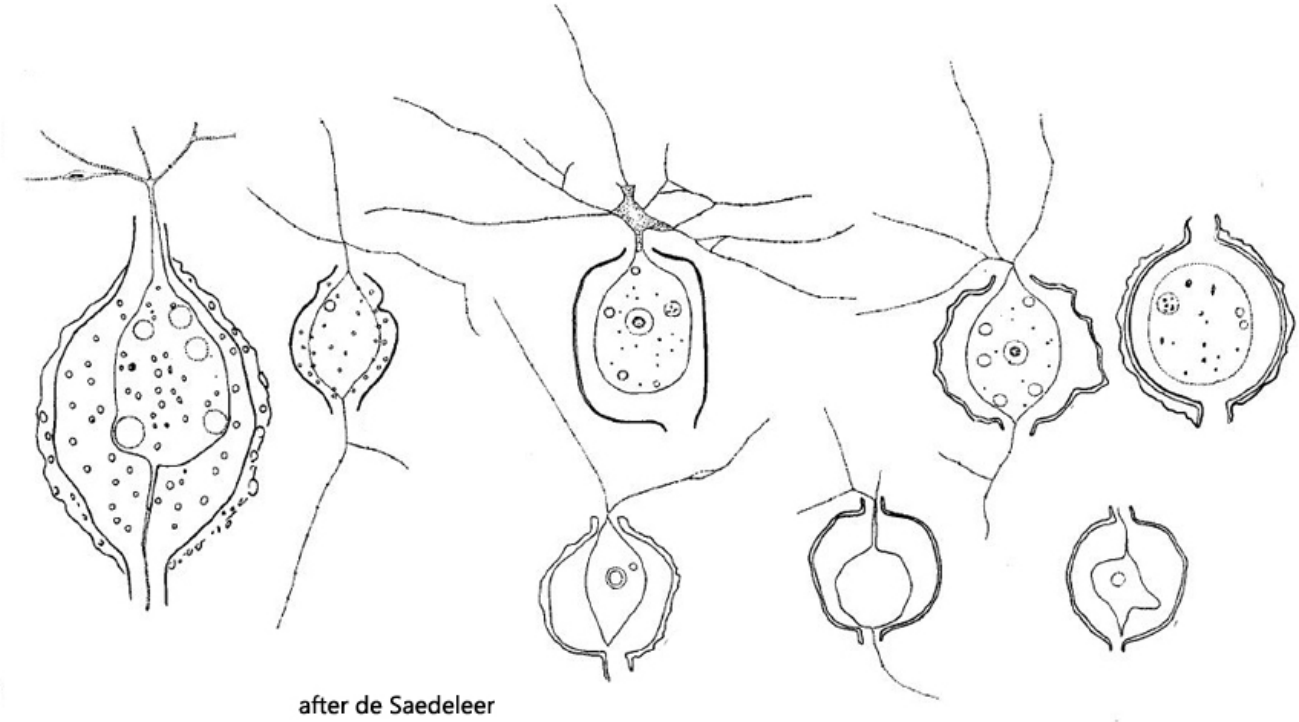
Synonym: n. a.

Sampling location: Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: n.a.

Diagnosis:

- shell hyaline, thin, without xenosomes, sometimes covered with brownish crust
- in frontal view spherical or oval, sometimes irregular or angular
- in lateral view dome-shaped
- shell with two opposite necks
- length of shell (including necks) 9.3–13.6 µm
- diameter of necks 1.7–2 µm
- protoplast fills shell not completely
- granulofilopodia form a dichotomously branched and anastomosing network
- nucleus central, with a single nucleolus
- several contractile vacuoles



Ditrema mikrous

So far I could detect *Ditrema mikrous* only in the Simmelried. Like the similar species *Ditrema longicollis*, *Ditrema mikrous* likes to settle on floating coverslips. I could observe both species in parallel on the same coverslips. The main distinguishing feature from *Ditrema longicollis* is the size. According to De Saedeleer, 1934 (s. literature) *Ditrema mikrous* with 9.3–13.6 µm length (including the necks) is only half the size of *Ditrema longicollis*. I can confirm these size differences. In my population the length of the specimens was 12.3–13.9 µm which agrees well with the data of De Saedeleer. I could also observe that the shells of some specimens were covered with a brownish crust (s. fig. 4). This was different from the orange-brown or brown coloration caused by iron deposits that occur in *Ditrema longicollis*. Since I have not find any *Ditrema* shells with a length of 14–23 µm (i.e., the gap between the size range of *Ditrema mikrous* and *Ditrema longicollis*), *Ditrema mikrous* cannot be a smaller variant of *Ditrema longicollis*, confirming De Saedeleer's delimitation.

More images and information of *Ditrema mikrous*: Ferry Siemensma-Microworld-*Ditrema mikrous*



Fig. 1: *Ditrema mikrous*. L = 13.9 µm (including necks). A partly extended specimen with an irregularly shaped shell. Obj. 100 X.

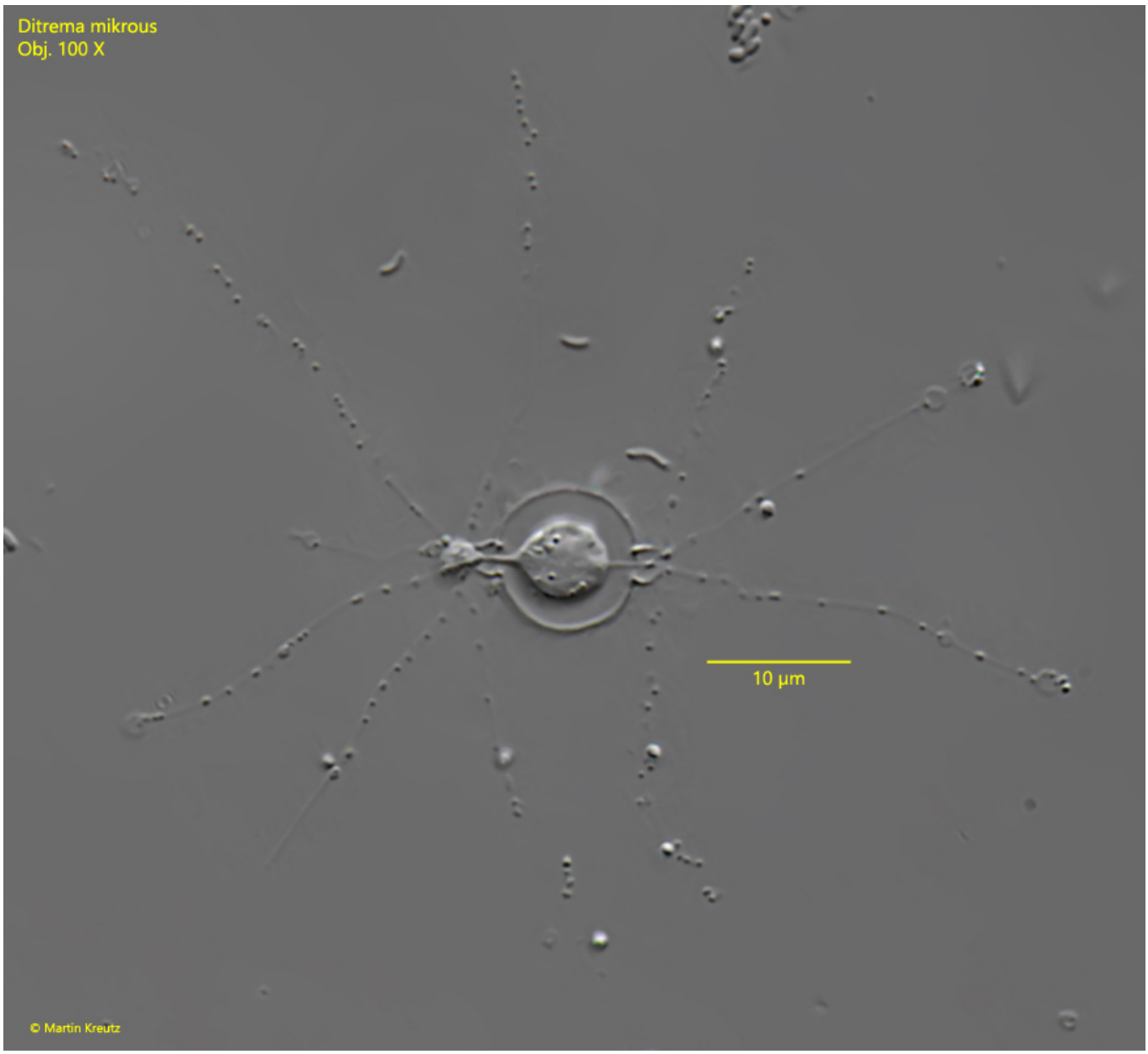


Fig. 2: *Ditrema mikrous*. L = 12.2 µm (including necks). A partly extended specimen with a spherical, hyaline shell. Obj. 100 X.

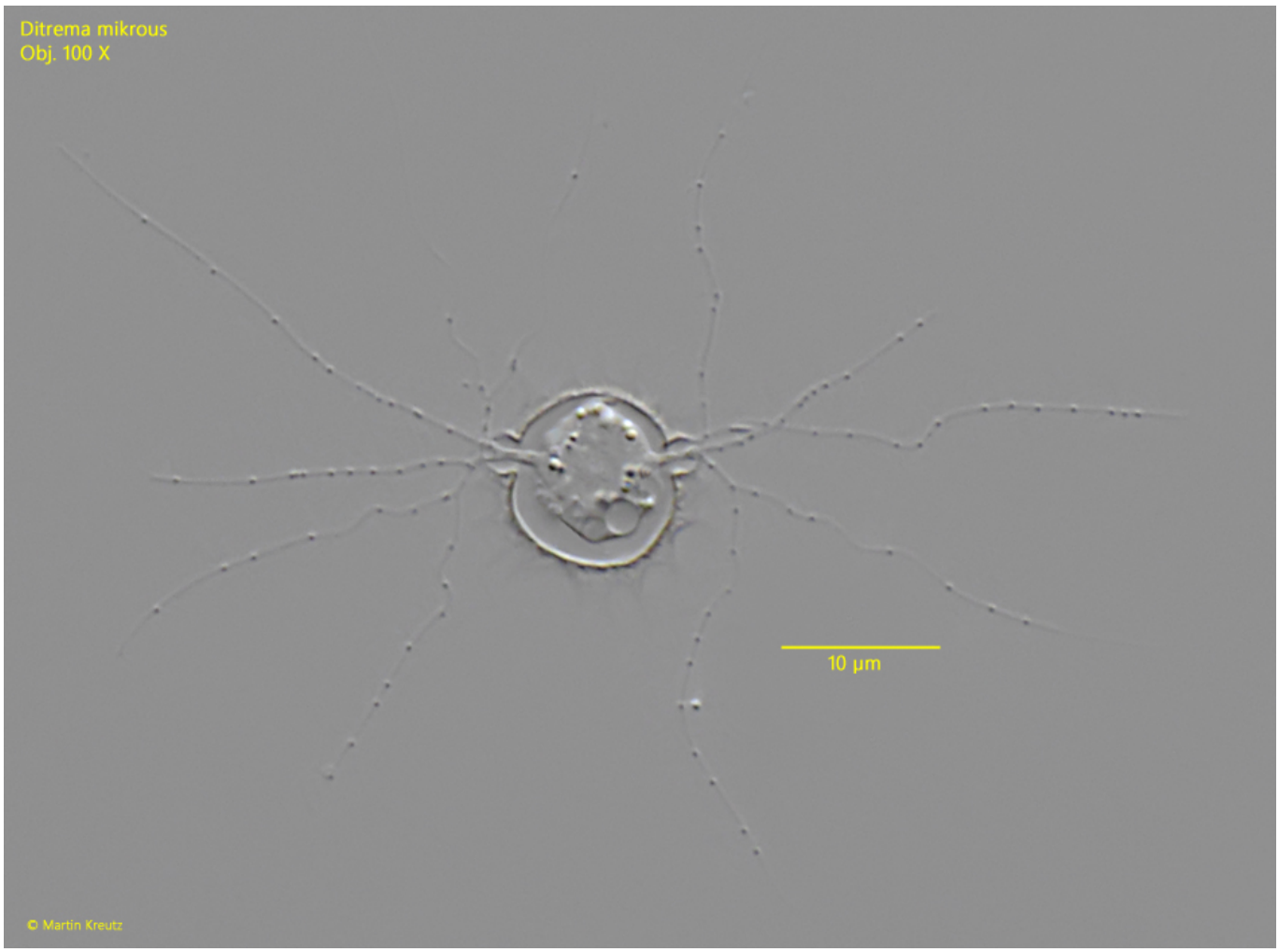


Fig. 3: *Ditrema mikrous*. L = 12.0 µm (including necks). A fully extended specimen with a slightly brownish shell. Obj. 100 X.

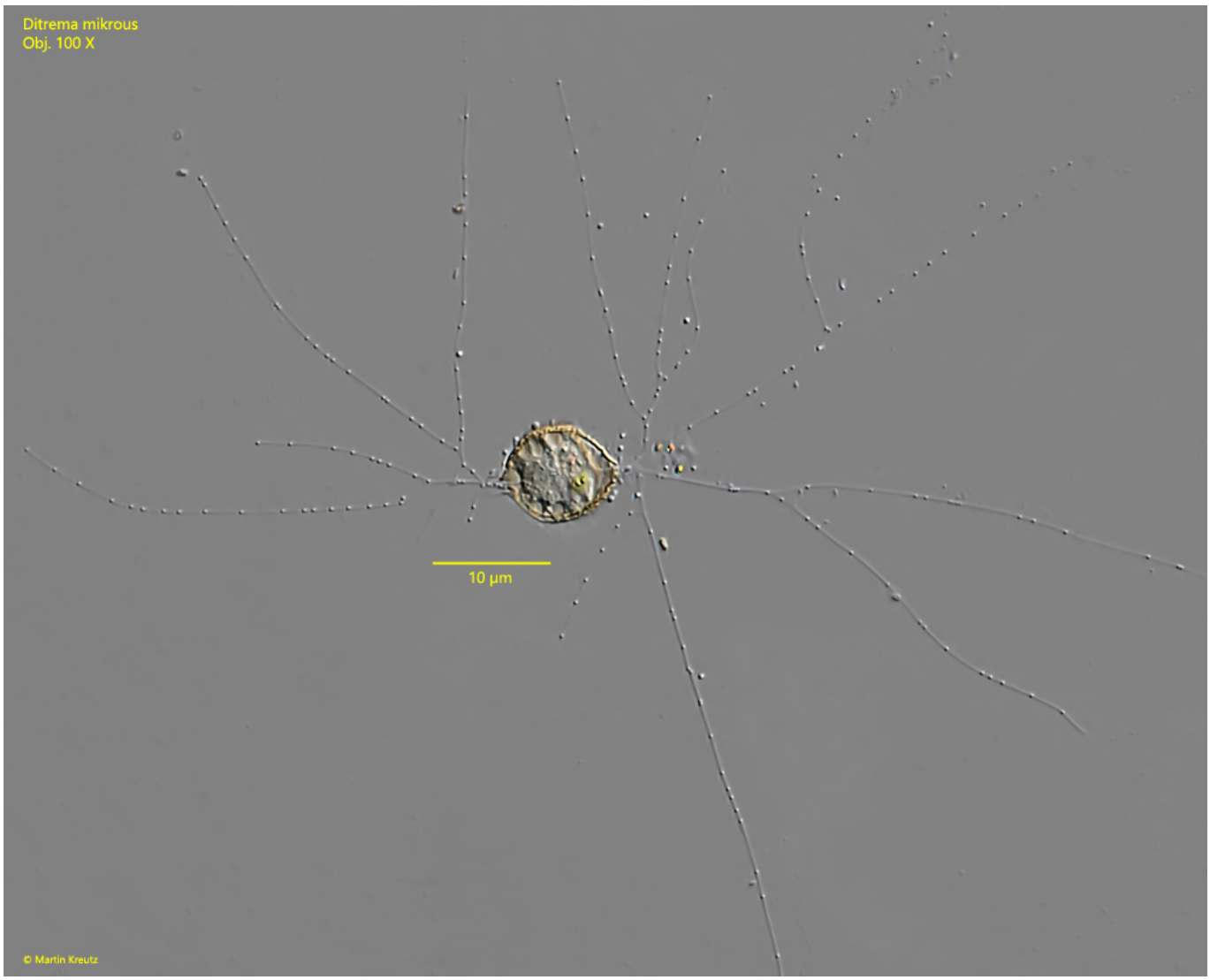


Fig. 4: *Ditrema mikrous*. L = 12.4 µm (including necks). A fully extended specimen with a broad oval shell covered with a brownish crust. Obj. 100 X.