Epipyxis leickii

(Gessner) Hilliard & Asmund, 1963

Most likely ID: n.a.

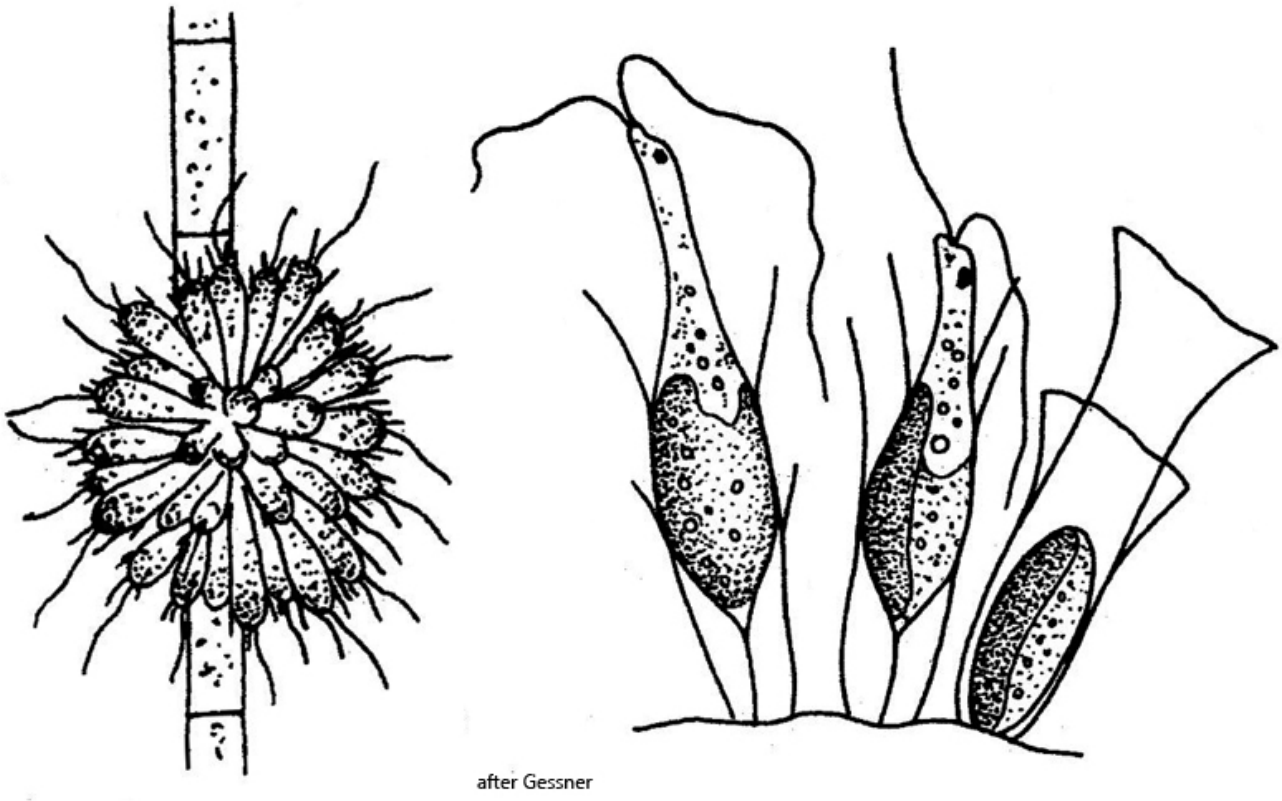
Synonym: *Hyalobryon leickii*

Sampling location: Pond of the convent Hegne

Phylogenetic tree: *Epipyxis leickii*

Diagnosis:

- cells spindle-shaped
- anterior end hyaline and obliquely truncated
- cells attached with tapered end to base of lorica
- lorica 25–30 µm long, cylindrically, with 1–3 growth rings
- aperture of lorica funnel-shaped
- two chloroplasts of different size
- 1–2 contractile vacuoles near mid-body
- one eyespot
- two flagella of different length
- solitary or in spherical colonies, epiphytical



Epipyxis leickii

Epipyxis leickii was first found by Gessner (1932) in a eutrophic pond on the island of Hiddensee (Germany). He described the species as *Hyalobryon leickii*. The genera *Epipyxis* and *Hyalobryon* were later united, with the generic name *Epipyxis* having priority.

So far I have only found *Epipyxis leickii* in the pond at the convent Hegne. In the samples I usually find small colonies of 10–20 specimens growing epiphytically on filamentous algae (s. fig. 2). Only rarely do I find solitary specimens (s. fig. 1).

In contrast to the genus *Dinobryon*, the loricae of the genus *Epipyxis* are composed of individual growth rings. In *Epipyxis leickii*, the rings that form the aperture of the lorica are widened in a funnel shape. The spindle-shaped cells have a clear, hyaline apical end, which sometimes appears snout-shaped.

Fig. 1: *Epipyxis leickii*. L = 30 µm (of lorica). A solitary specimen attached to the gelatinous tube of *Encyonema leibleinii*. CV = contractile vacuole, Chl = chloroplast. Obj. 100 X.

Fig. 2: *Epipyxis leickii*. L = 26–28 µm (of loricae). A colony of several specimens attached to an filamentous alga. CV = contractile vacuoles, Nu = nucleus. Obj. 100 X.