

***Epistylis plicatilis* (Ehrenberg, 1831)**

Most likely ID: n.a.

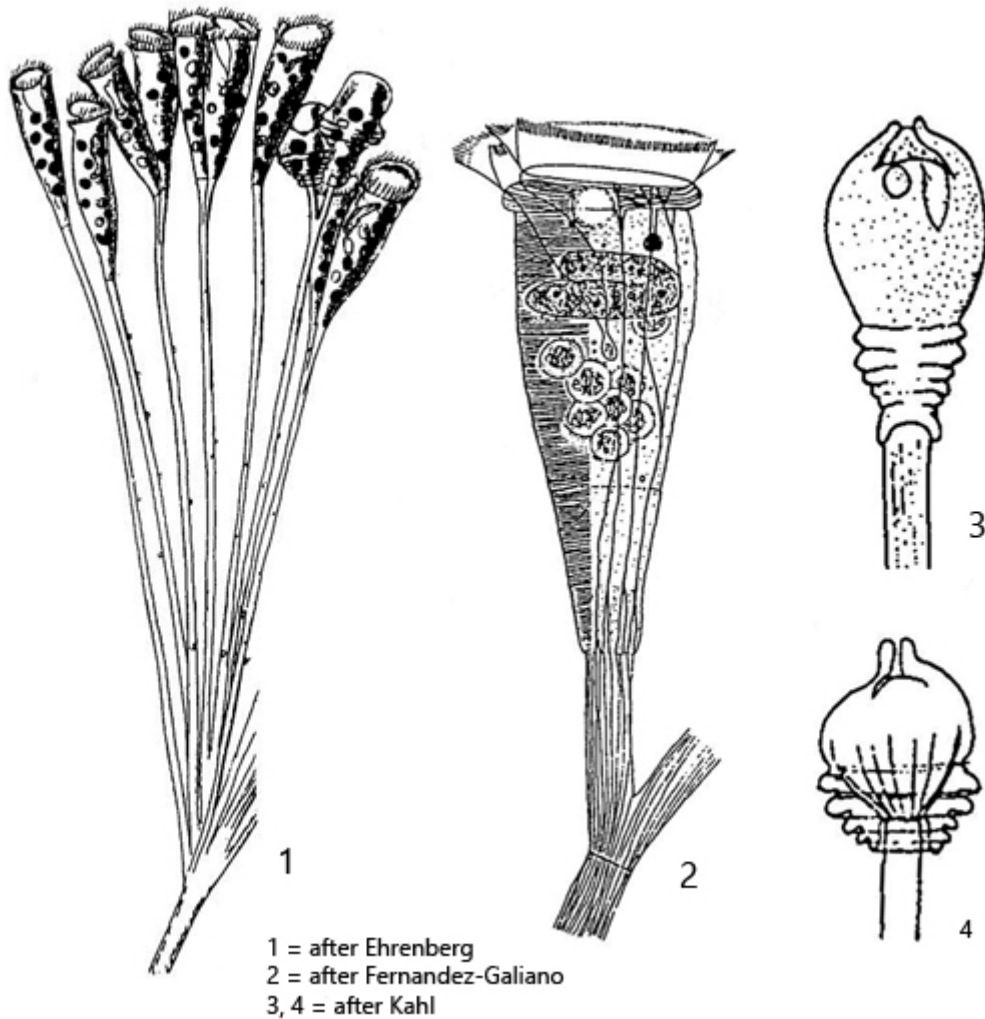
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Ulmisried](#), [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Epistylis plicatilis](#)

Diagnosis:

- zooids 90-120 μm long, width 25-50 μm
- extended zooids slenderly funnel-shape
- contracted zooids with snout-shaped anterior end, posterior part annulated
- macronucleus kidney-shaped to horseshoe-shaped, horizontal in anterior half
- micronucleus located between peristome and macronucleus
- one contractile vacuole near peristome
- pellicle with about 117 transverse striae
- stalk non-contractile with longitudinal striation, width 7-18 μm , dichotomously branched
- colonies up to 4 mm long
- zooids are located in periphery of colony



Epistylis plicatilis

So far I have only found a few colonies of *Epistylis plicatilis* in [Ulmisried](#) and [Simmelried](#). The zooids of *Epistylis plicatilis* are quite large with a length of about 100 µm and they are located in the periphery of the colony, which gives them an umbrella-shaped appearance (s. fig. 1). An important identification feature is the shape of the contracted zooids (s. fig. 3 b). The front end is snout-shaped, while the posterior half is annulated and extends over the stalk. The macronucleus can be horseshoe-shaped or kidney-shaped and lies transversely below the peristome. In my population the macronucleus was always kidney-shaped (s. fig. 4). I could not identify the spherical micronucleus. It should not be attached to the macronucleus, but should be shifted towards the peristome. The non-contractile stalk is thick and has a longitudinal striation, which can vary in intensity (s. fig. 5).

Epistylis plicatilis
Obj. 20 X



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Fig. 1: *Epistylis plicatilis*. L = 105-126 μm (of zooids). A small colony of 10 zooids. Obj. 20 X.

Epistylis plicatilis
Obj. 40 X



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Fig. 2: *Epistylis plicatilis*. L = 488 μm (zooids with stalk). A small colony settled on a detritus flake. Obj. 40 X.

Epistylis plicatilis
Obj. 60 X



Fig. 3 a-b: *Epistylis plicatilis*. L = 93-99 μm (of zooids). Fully elongated (a) and contracted zooids (b) in the colony as shown in fig. 2. The contracted zooids are 51-66 μm long, have a snout-shaped anterior end (SA) and an annulated posterior end (AP). Obj. 60 X.

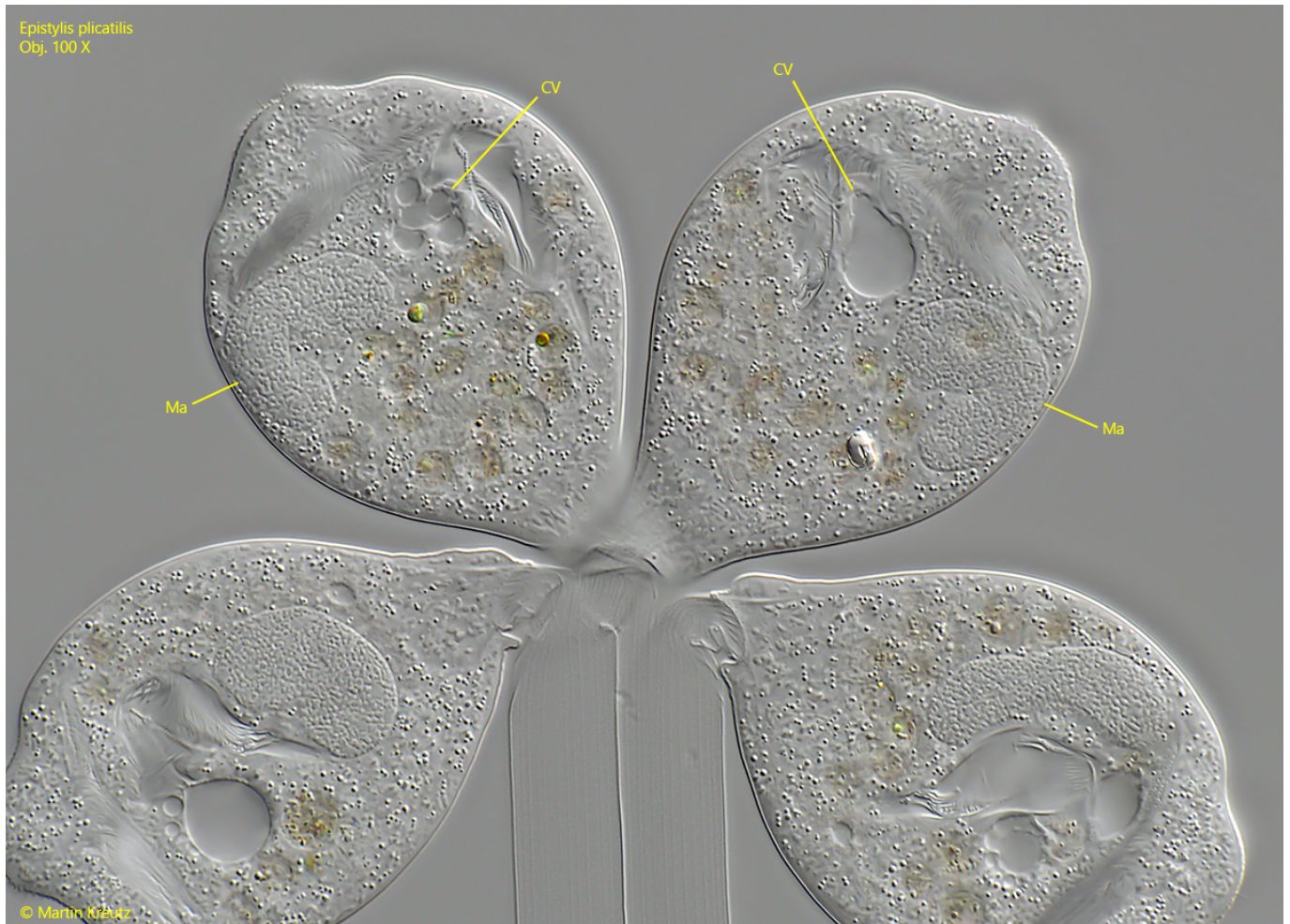


Fig. 4: *Epistylis plicatilis*. In the strongly squashed zooids the kidney-shaped macronuclei (Ma) and the contractile vacuoles (CV) are visible. Obj. 100 X.

Epistylis plicatilis
Obj. 100 X

LS

Fig. 5: *Epistylis plicatilis*. The non-contractile stalk in detail. The diameter in the lower part is 18 μm . Note the delicate, longitudinal striation (LS). Obj. 100 X.