

Floscularia melicerta

Ehrenberg, 1832

Most likely ID: n.a.

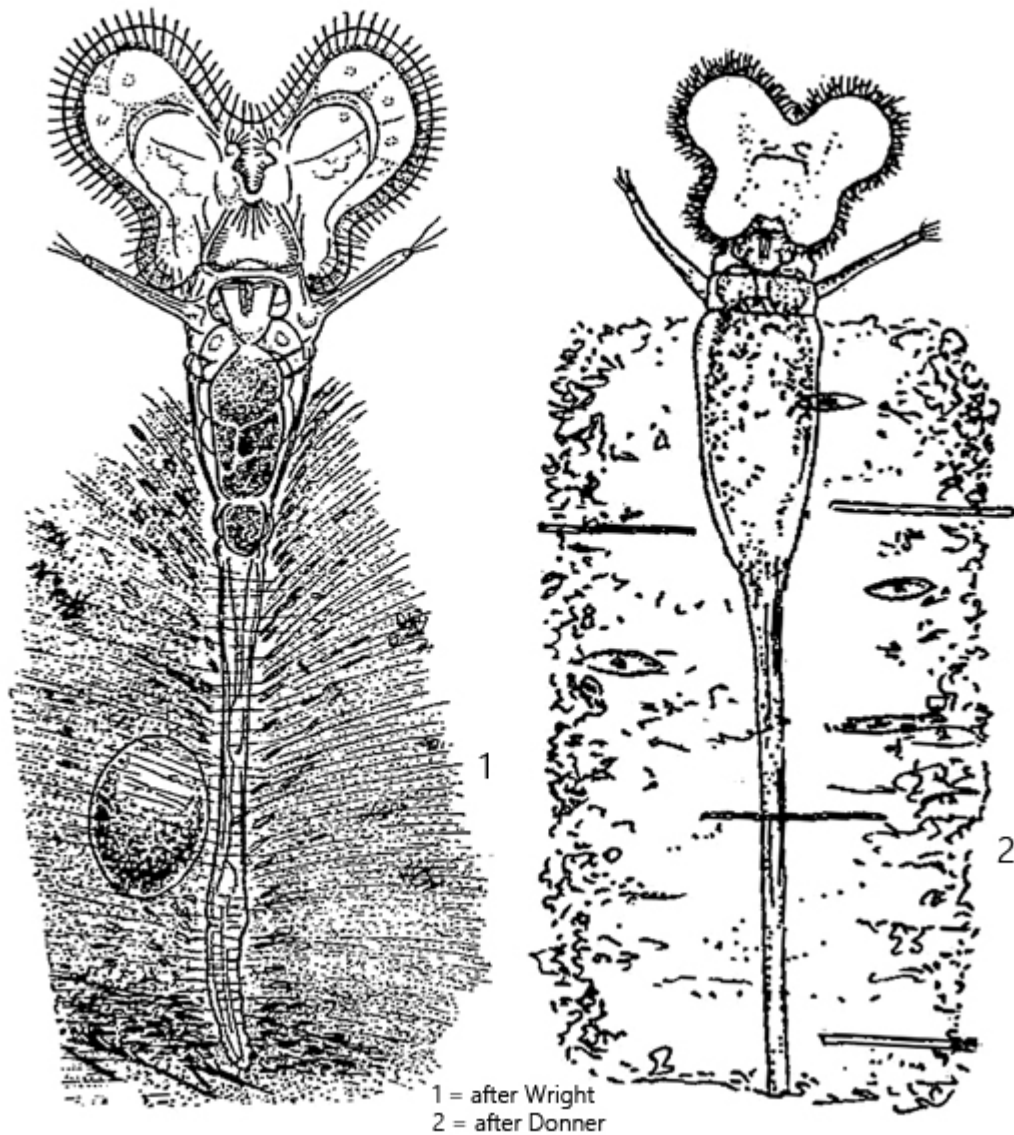
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Ulmisried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Floscularia melicerta](#)

Diagnosis:

- sessile rotifer in a gelatinous tube
- tube commonly yellowish or orange
- matrix of tube faintly striated radially
- length of rotifer up to 1600 µm
- length of tube up to 1600 µm
- corona large, with 4 lobes
- two long ventral antennae
- amictic eggs deposited in tube
- eyespots absent



Floscularia melicerta

I found *Floascularia melicerta* in June 2020 on leaves of *Myriophyllum* spec. in [Ulmisried](#). However, there were only a few specimens. The species is described as rare, and apart from this single find I have not been able to locate any further specimens so far.

The species of the genus *Floscularia* can easily be recognized by the corona, which consists of 4 lobes. The species *Floscularia melicerta* is easily identified by the tube, which consists of a layered, gelatinous matrix. The layers appear in lateral view as a radial striation (s. fig. 2). Usually the tube is yellowish in color. In my population all the tubes were clearly orange in color.

Compared to the body, the corona of *Floscularia melicerta* is quite large. Striking

are the two long ventral antennae, which are always clearly visible in extended specimens (s. fig. 4). In my population the extended specimens were about 1000 μm long.

More images and information on *Floscularia melicerta*: [Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-Floscularia melicerta](#)





Fig. 1 a-b: *Floscularia melicerta*. L = 955-1000 μm . Two specimens in orange colored tubes attached to leaves of *Myriophyllum* spec. Obj. 10 X.

Floscularia melicerta
Obj. 20 X



Fig. 2: *Floscularia melicerta*. An elongated specimen in lateral view from left. One of the two ventral antenna (VA) is in the focal plane. Note the fine, radially striation

of the tube and the egg (EG) deposited in the tube. Obj. 20 X.



Fig. 3: *Floscularia melicerta*. Ventral view with focal plane on the two ventral antennae (VA). Obj. 20 X.

Floscularia melicerta
Obj. 20 X



Fig. 4: *Floscularia melicerta*. Ventral view with focal plane on the four lobes of the corona. Obj. 20 X.