

***Gastropus hyptopus* Ehrenberg, 1838**

Most likely ID: n.a.

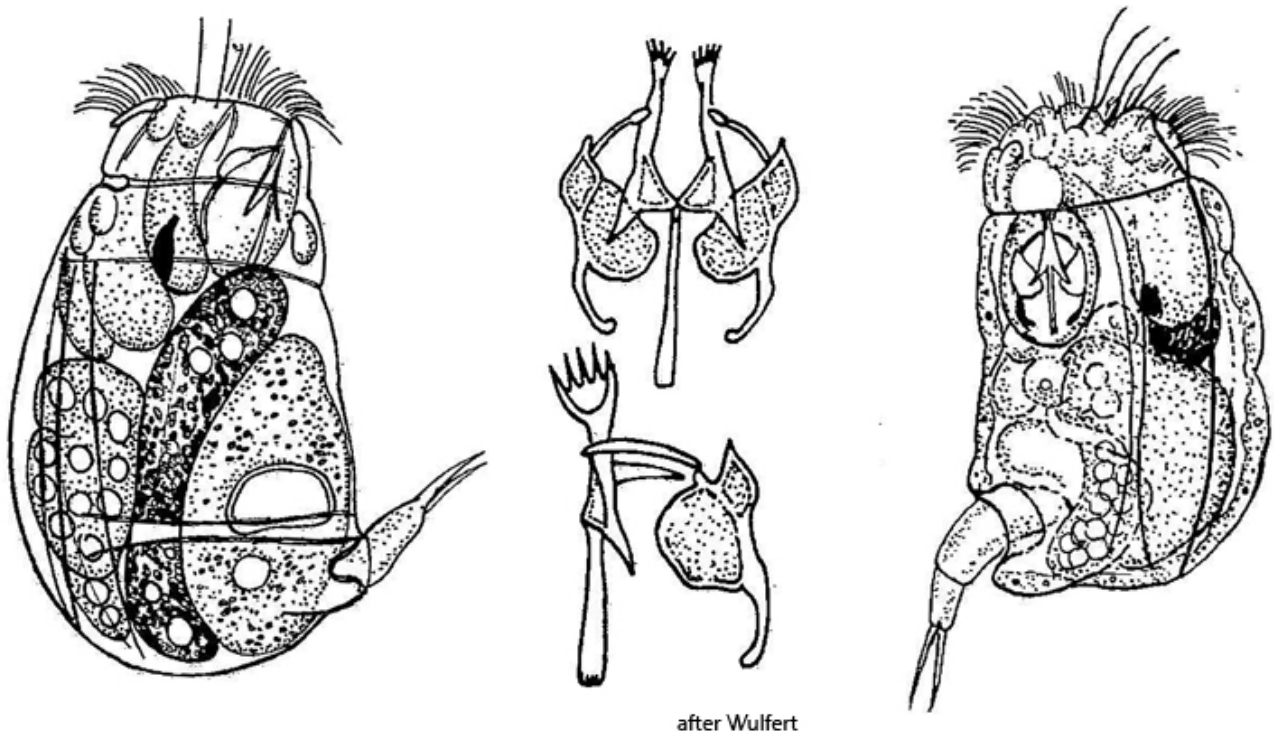
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Odertal national park

Phylogenetic tree: [Gastropus hyptopus](#)

Diagnosis:

- body bottle shaped, laterally slightly flattened
- length 80–127 µm
- foot opening ventral, posterior third
- foot with two segment, retractable
- two toes, thin and tapered
- one eye spot in anterior third
- stomach colored yellow-brownish, with oil droplets
- antennae arise from circular, wart-shaped protusions
- dorsal antenna above middle of body



Gastropus hyptopus

So far, I have only been able to find *Gastropus hyptopus* in samples from the Odertal national park. A characteristic feature of the genus *Gastropus* is the foot opening of the lorica, which is shifted toward the ventral side. In *Gastropus hyptopus* it is displaced into the posterior third. The foot is composed of two segments with two slender toes that are sharply pointed. The foot is retractable.

The most important characteristics of *Gastropus hyptopus* are the wavy apical margin of the lorica (s. fig. 2 a), the yellow-brown stomach with distinct oil droplets (s. fig. 3 a), and the dorsal antenna located above the middle of the body (s. fig. 5 a).

The similar species *Gastropus minor* is smaller, with a maximum length of 125 μm , and it has a neck-like tapered anterior end. In addition, the dorsal antenna in *Gastropus minor* is clearly situated below the middle of the body.

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

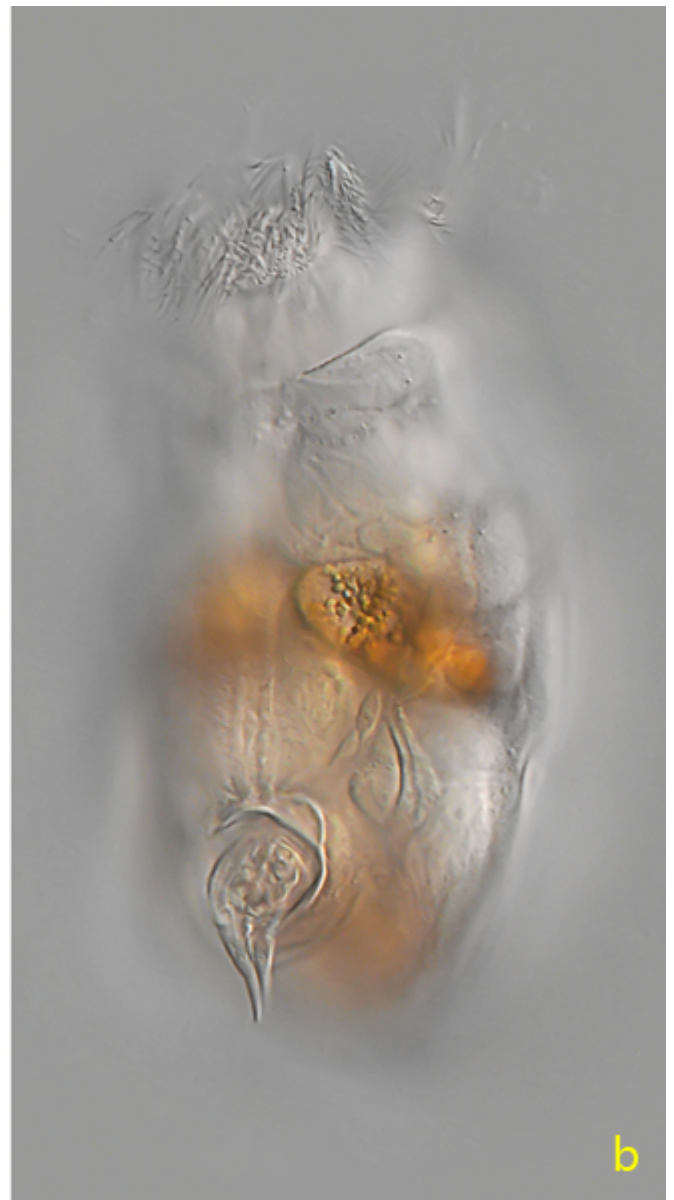


Fig. 1 a-b: *Gastropus hyptopus*. L = 140 μ m. A freely swimming specimen from right (a) and from ventral (b). Obj. 40 X.

Gastropus hyptopus
Obj. 60 X



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a



b

Gastropus hyptopus
Obj. 60 X



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c



d

Fig. 2 a-d: *Gastropus hyptopus*. L = 148 μ m. Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen from left. Note the wavy shaped anterior margin (AM) of the lorica. ES = eyespot, BL = bladder, FT = foot. Obj. 60 X.

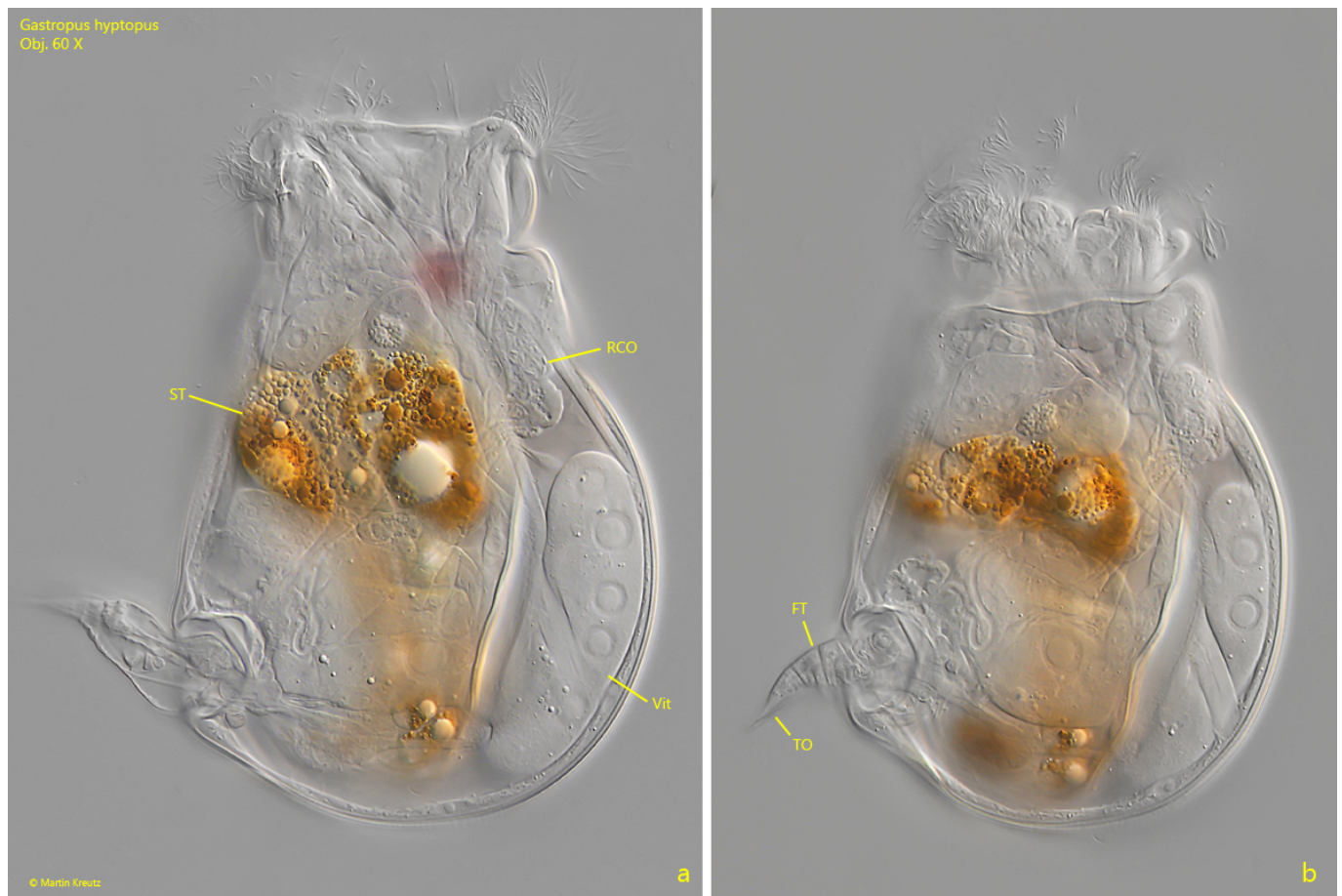


Fig. 3 a-b: *Gastropus hyptopus*. L = 148 μ m. The same specimen as shown in fig. 2 a-d slightly squashed. FT = foot, RCO = retrocerebral organ, ST = stomach, TO = toes, Vit = vitellarium. Obj. 60 X.

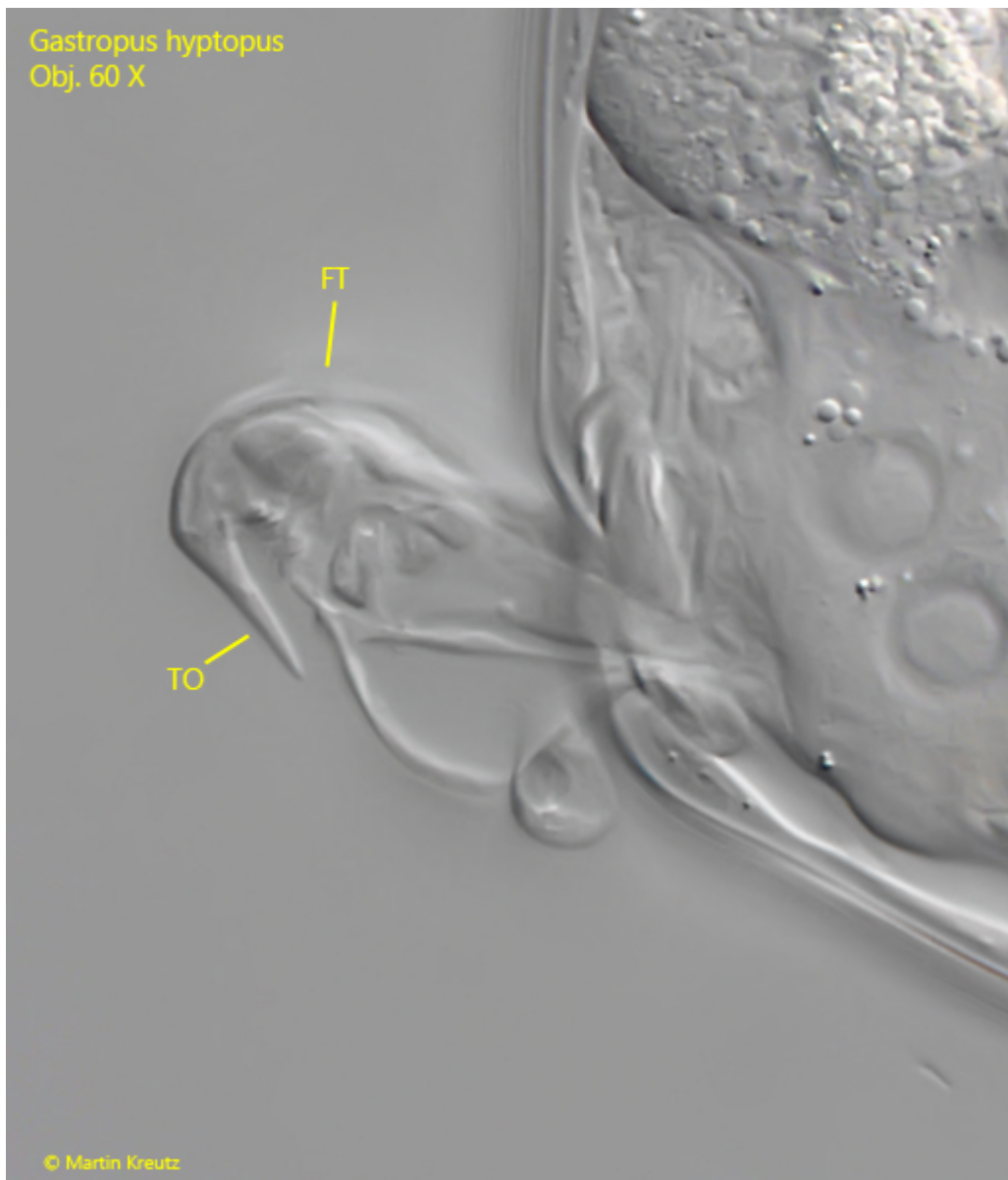


Fig. 4: *Gastropus hyptopus*. The foot (FT) and the tapered toes (TO) in a squashed specimen. Obj. 60 X.

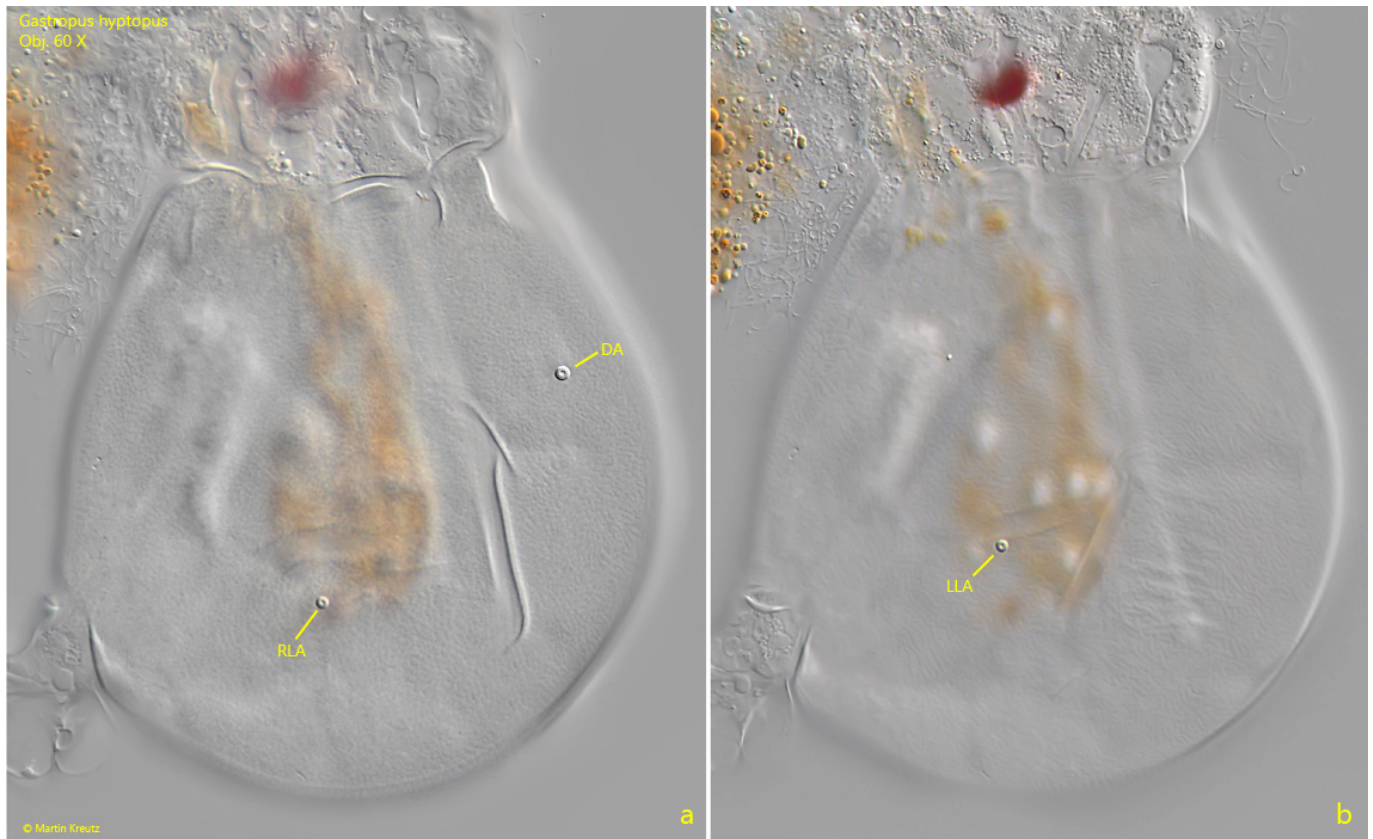


Fig. 5 a-b: *Gastropus hyptopus*. Focal planes on the right side (a) and on the left side of the strongly squashed specimen. The dorsal antenna (DA) as well as the right lateral (RLA) and left lateral (LLA) antenna are visible. Obj. 60 X.