

***Glaucoma scintillans* Ehrenberg, 1830**

Most likely ID: n.a.

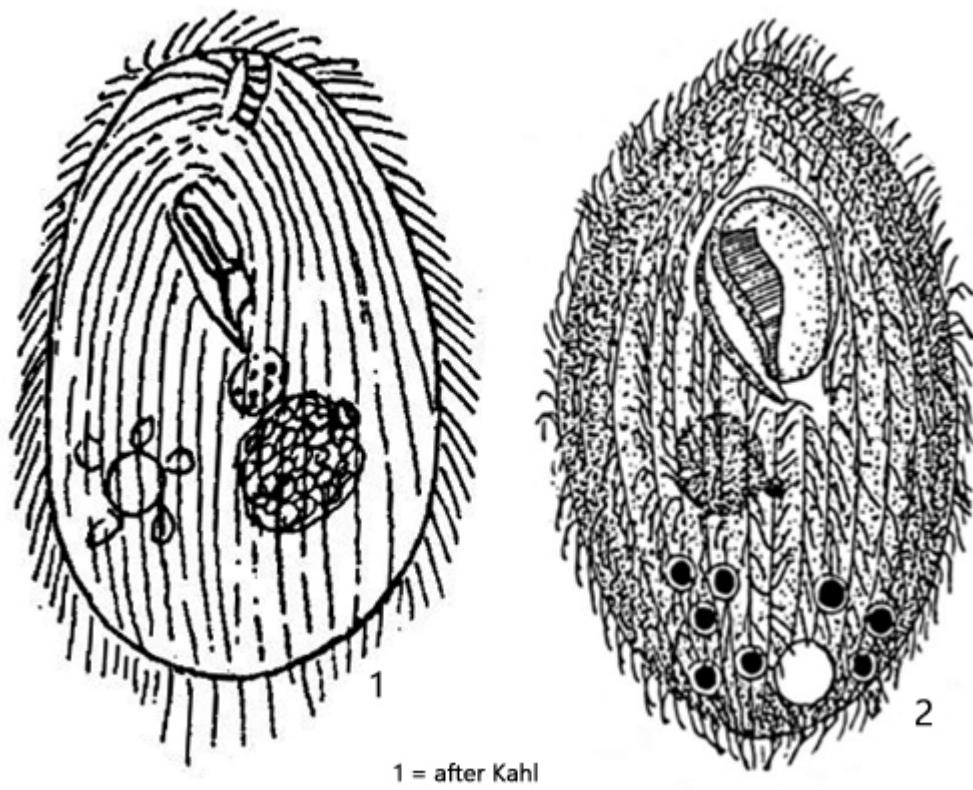
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Ulmisried](#), [Purren pond](#), [Mainau pond](#), [Pond of the convent Hegne](#), [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [*Glaucoma scintillans*](#)

Diagnosis:

- body slender to broad ellipsoidal
- length 35–75 µm, commonly 55 µm
- oral apparatus subapical, oblique to longitudinal axis
- pre-oral suture present (hard to see)
- mouth opening with 3 adoral membranelles
- undulating membrane right
- 30–40 longitudinal rows of cilia
- macronucleus spherical, mid-body
- one adjacent, sphaerical micronucleus
- contractile in posterior third
- one excretion pore dorsal
- some elongated caudal cilia



1 = after Kahl
2 = after Liebmann

Glaucoma scintillans

Glaucoma scintillans is a very common ciliate that is particularly common in nutrient-rich habitats with high bacterial densities. It is also regularly found in hay infusions.

Although *Glaucoma scintillans* is relatively small, measuring approximately 50-60 µm in length, it is noticeable in samples due to the fanning activity of the membranelles in the mouth opening. These move at a frequency of 7-10 Hz, which is easily visible to the human eye. The mouth opening itself is vertical and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body, but the adoral membrane and the undulating membrane are slightly slanted, which is typical for the genus *Glaucoma*. Upon closer inspection of the mouth opening, the three adoral membranelles are clearly visible (s. fig. 4). At the anterior end of membranelle 2, there is also a small, slightly offset ciliated field called the X-body (s. fig. 4).

The food of *Glaucoma scintillans* appears to consist exclusively of bacteria found in all food vacuoles. The globular macronucleus with attached micronucleus is located in the center of the body (s. fig. 6). The contractile vacuole is located at the border to the posterior third (s. figs. 3 b and 4) and was drawn too far shifted posterior by Liebmann (s. drawing 2, above).

To my knowledge, the very small extrusomes, which are located beneath to the pellicle, have not yet been described in detail. According to my observations, they are rod-shaped and have a length of 1.5 μm (s. fig. 6).

In some specimens of *Glaucoma scintillans*, I was able to detect transverse striations on the pellicle, which are also sometimes found in other species of the genus *Glaucoma* (s. fig. 5 a-b). However, these transverse striations did not appear to be equally pronounced in all specimens. In some specimens, they seemed to be absent.

Glaucoma scintillans
Obj. 40 X



a



b



c



d

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Fig. 1 a-d: *Glaucoma scintillans*. L = 57 μ m. Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen from ventral. Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 2 a-b: *Glaucoma scintillans*. L = 48 μ m. A second freely specimen from ventral in detail. Obj. 100 X.

Glaucoma scintillans
Obj. 100 X



Fig. 3 a-b: *Glaucoma scintillans*. L = 47 μ m. A slightly squashed specimen from ventral. The food vacuole (FV) on the left side is filled with a bundle of bacteria. CC = elongated caudal cilia, CV = contractile vacuole, Ma = macronucleus, MO = mouth opening. Obj. 100 X.

Glaucoma scintillans
Obj. 100 X

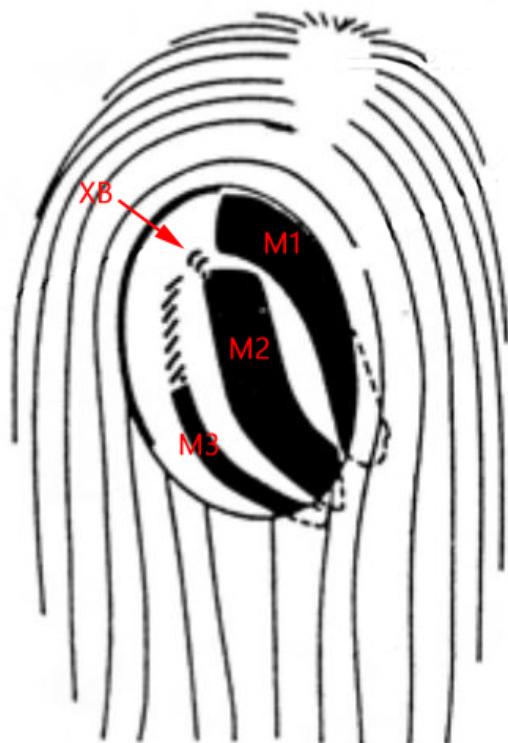
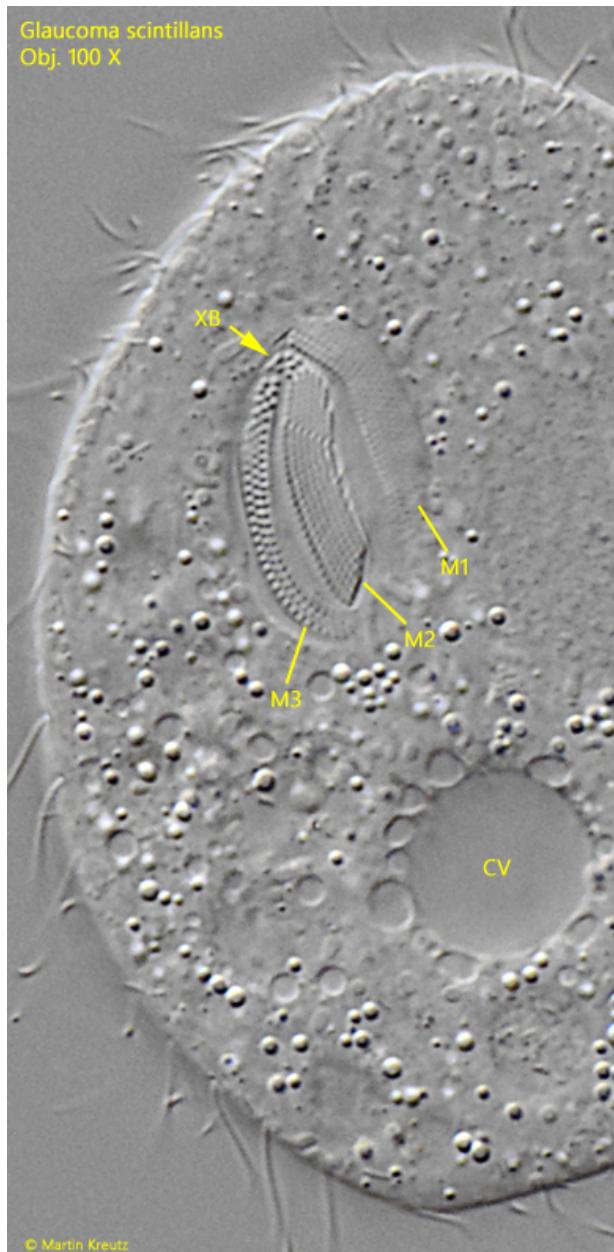


Fig. 4: *Glaucoma scintillans*. The oral apparatus in detail compared to a schematic drawing. The three adoral membranelles alle visible (M1-M3) and the so called X-body (XB), a small field of cilia at the anterior end of the membranelle M2. CV = contractile vacuole. Obj. 100 X.

Glaucoma scintillans
Obj. 100 X

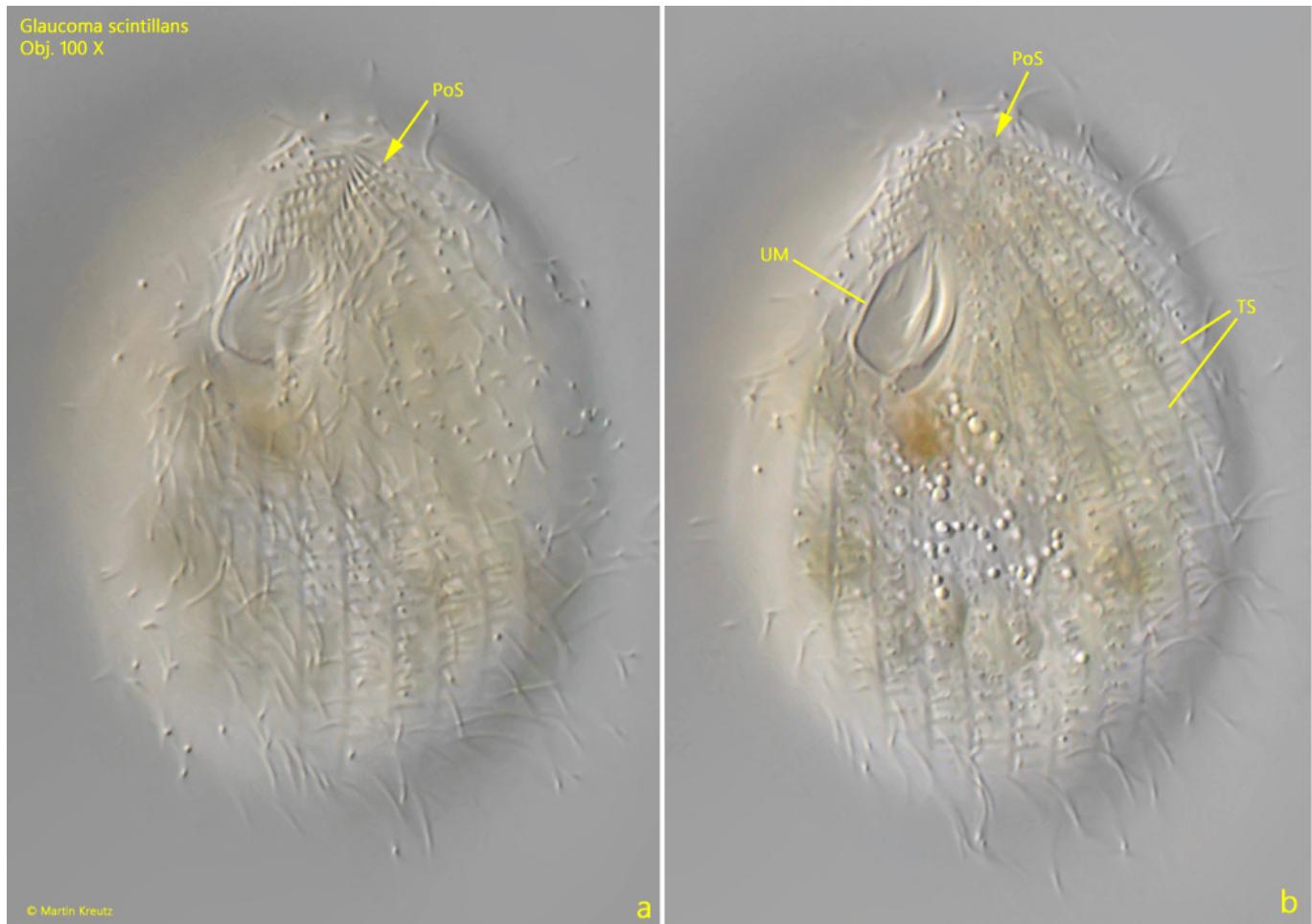


Fig. 5 a-b: *Glaucoma scintillans*. L = 53 μ m. The pre-oral suture (PoS) in a freely swimming specimen. Note the delicate transverse striation (TS) of the pellicle. On the right side of the mouth opening the undulating membrane (UM) is visible. Obj. 100 X.

Glaucoma scintillans
Obj. 100 X



Fig. 6: *Glaucoma scintillans*. The macronucleus (Ma) and the adjacent micronucleus (Mi) in a squashed specimen. Beneath the pellicle the rod-shaped extrusomes (EX) are visible with a length of 1.5 μm . Obj. 100 X.

Glaucoma scintillans

Obj. 100 X



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Fig. 7: *Glaucoma scintillans*. The single excretion pore (EP) of the contractile vacuole on the dorsal side. Obj. 100 X.