Gomphosphaeria aponina (Kützing, 1836)

Most likely ID: n.a.

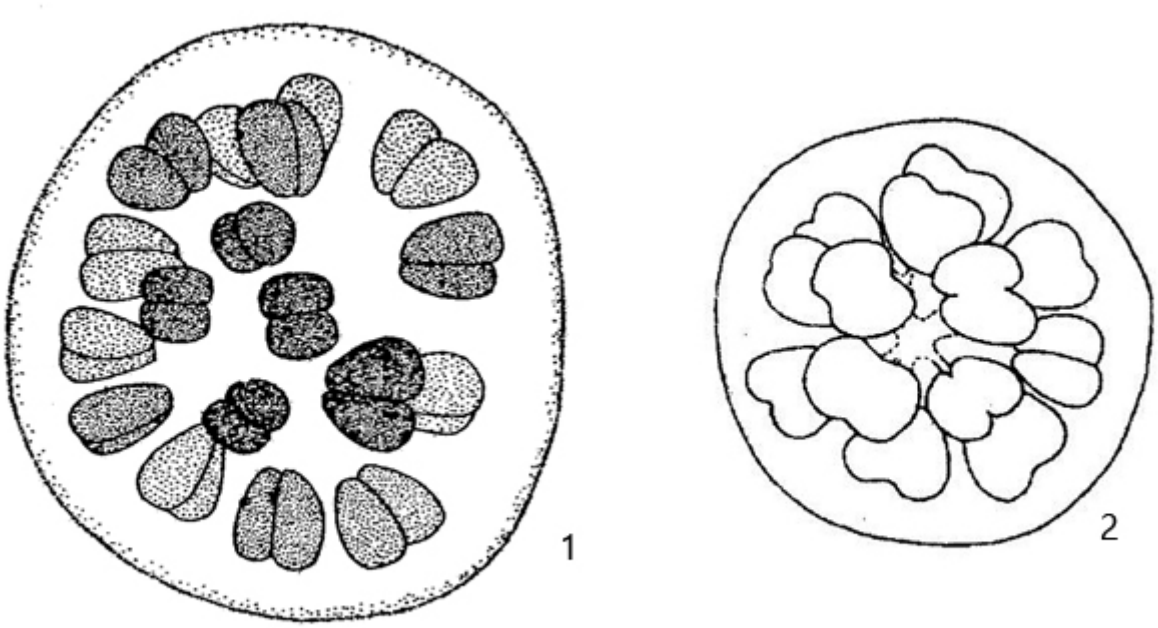
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Gomphosphaeria aponina*

Diagnosis:

- colonies spherical, ovoid or irregularly
- colonies covered with mucilaginous mass
- colonies 50–100 µm in diameter
- cells 6–12 µm long, obovoid or wedge-shaped
- cells joined together after cell division in a cordiform shape
- cells in peripherical layer at distal ends of branched, mucilaginous stalks
- talks originating in center of colony
- cells are separated from each other



Gomphosphaeria aponina

I found *Gomphosphaeria aponina* among floating plant masses in the Simmelried. The center of the colony is formed by mucilaginous, branched stalks, at the ends of which are the ovoid or wedge-shaped cells. The cells remain connected after the cell division have a characteristic heart-shaped form (s. fig. 2). This peculiarity makes *Gomphosphaeria aponina* easy to identify. The similar genus *Snowella* (e.g. *Snowella litoralis*) also has branched stalks at the ends of which the cells of the colony are located. However, in this genus the cells do not remain connected after division.

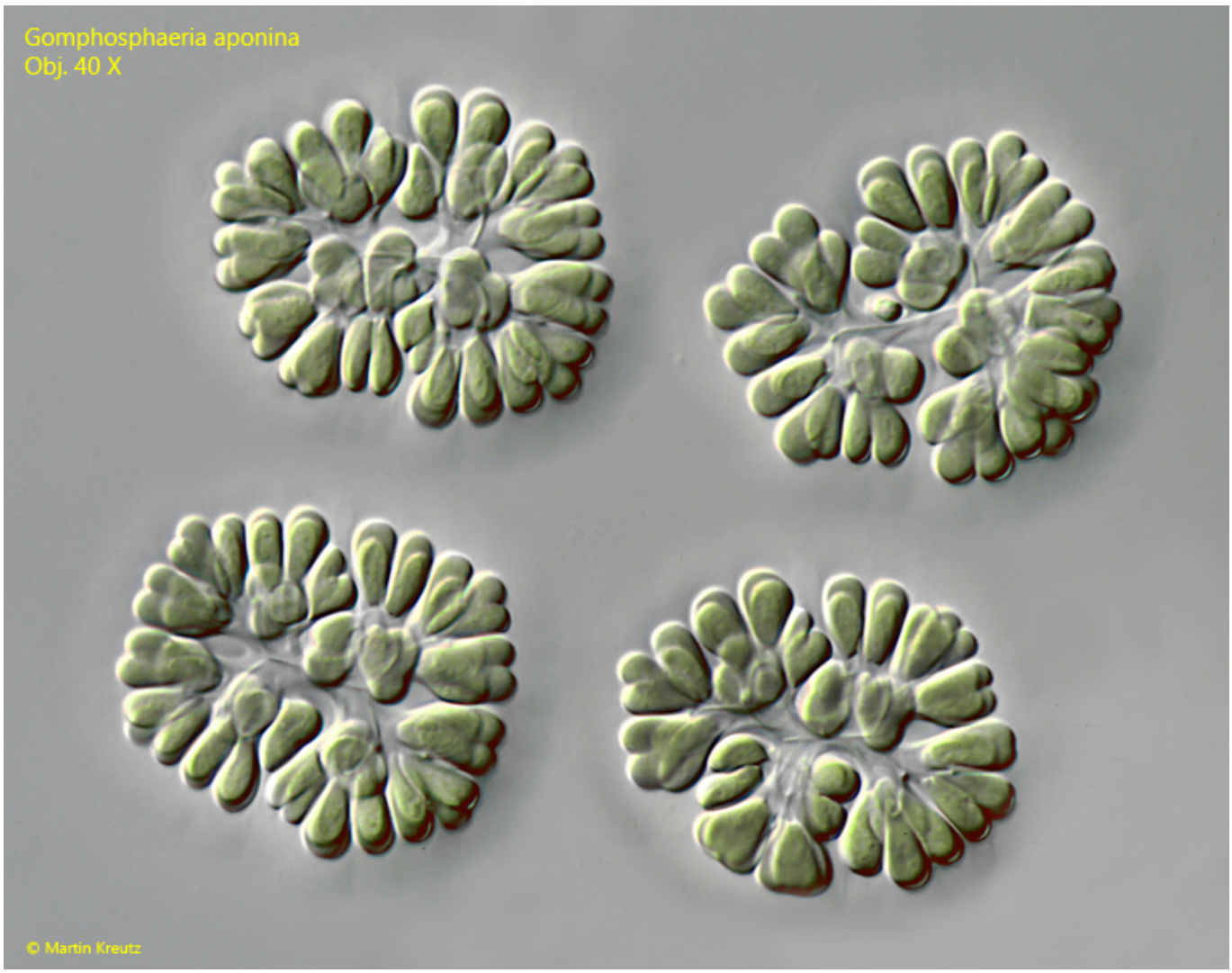


Fig. 1: *Gomphospharia aponina*. D = 70–76 µm (of colonies). Overview of four colonies. Obj. 40 X.

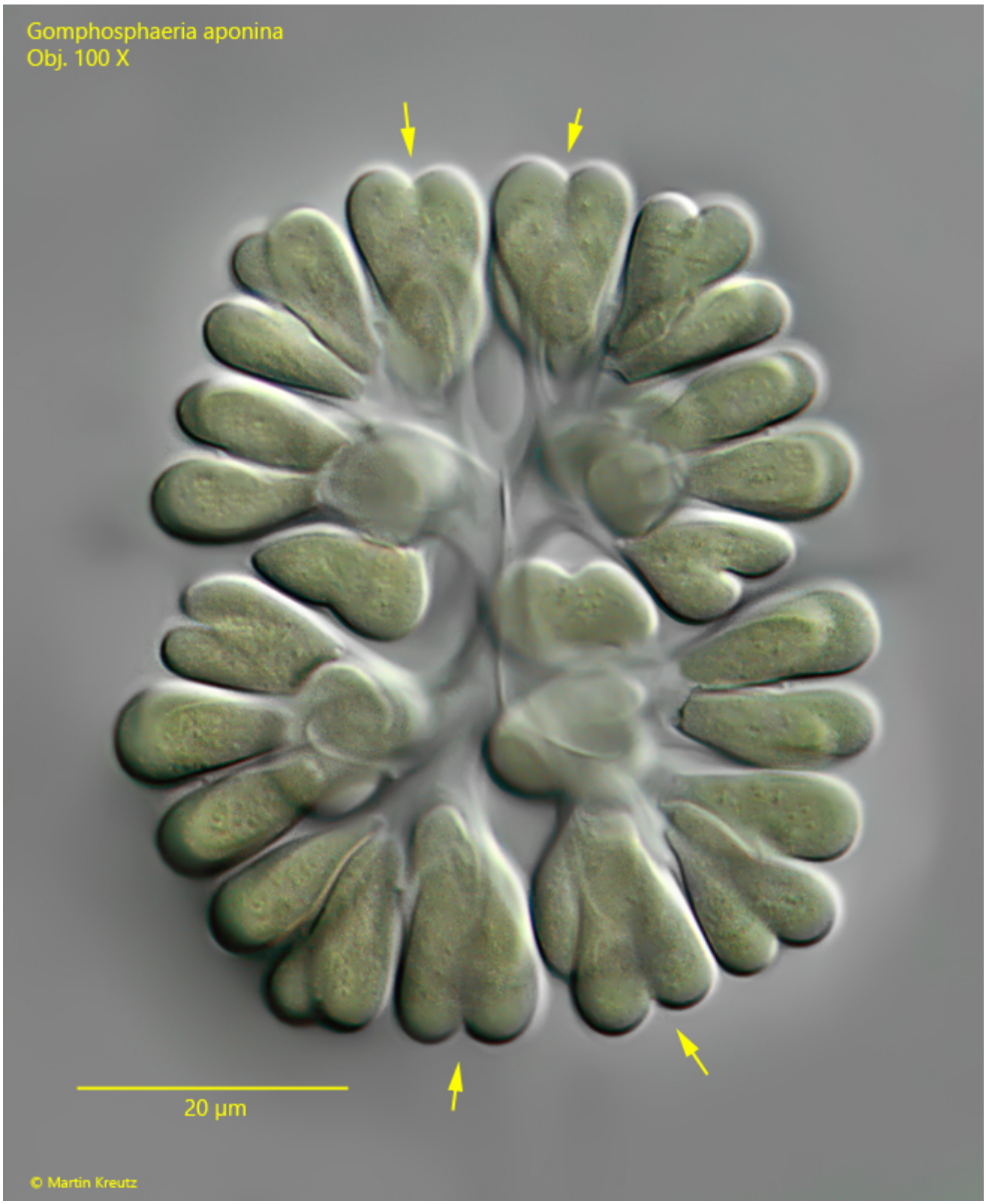


Fig. 2: *Gomphospharia aponina*. D = 84 µm (of colony). A slightly squashed colony. Note the cordiform shaped cells during cell division (arrows) and the branched mucilaginous stalks in the center of the colony. The cells are 10–12 µm long. Obj. 100 X.