Halteria oblonga

(Kellicott, 1885) Kahl, 1932

Most likely ID: n.a.

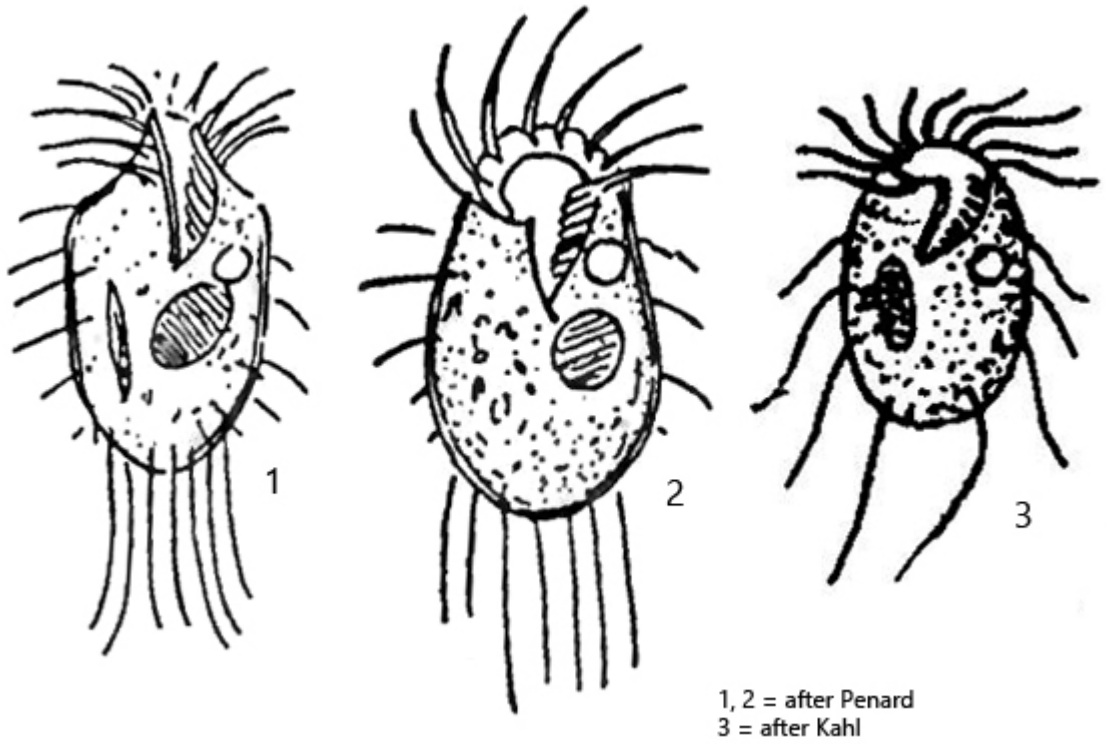
Synonym: *Strombidium oblonga*

Sampling location: Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Halteria oblonga*

Diagnosis:

- body oval, ovoid or ellipsoidal
- length 30–45 µm
- 6–7 longitudinal rows of cilia, widely spaced
- anterior end with prominent adoral membranelles
- oral apparatus at anterior end with an inner zone of 5–10 membranelles
- in equatorial zone bifurcated jumping bristles
- several long trailing cilia at posterior end
- cytoplasm sometimes with few symbiotic algae
- macronucleus ovoid with adjacent micronucleus, located centrally
- one contractile vacuole left to the mouth opening
- lives in the gelatinous mass of *Chaetophora*



Halteria oblonga

Both Penard (1922) and Kahl (1932) found *Halteria oblonga* exclusively in the gelatinous mass of the green alga *Chaetophora*. I can confirm this finding (s. fig. 1). If freely swimming specimens are found, they were released from the jelly by the sample preparation. So far I have only been able to find *Halteria oblonga* in the Simmelried, where the species is rarely found.

Halteria oblonga has spring bristles, which are bifurcated at the distal end (s. figs. 3 c and 5 a). However, these appear to be soft and flexible, as they are kept attached to the body during swimming. About 4–6 trailing cilia, which often have a characteristic S-shaped form, protrude beyond the posterior (s. figs. 1 a and 4 b). The outer adoral zone of membranelles (s. fig. 5 c) is not as strongly developed as in the species *Halteria grandinella*. The inner zone of membranelles (s. figs. 3 b and 4 a), which runs to the mouth opening, does not reach a fourth of the body length and runs slightly to the right. The body shape seems to be quite variable from broadly oval (s. fig. 5 a-d) to almost ellipsoid (s. fig. 4 a-c). I have not yet found specimens with symbiotic algae in the cytoplasm, as described by Kahl.

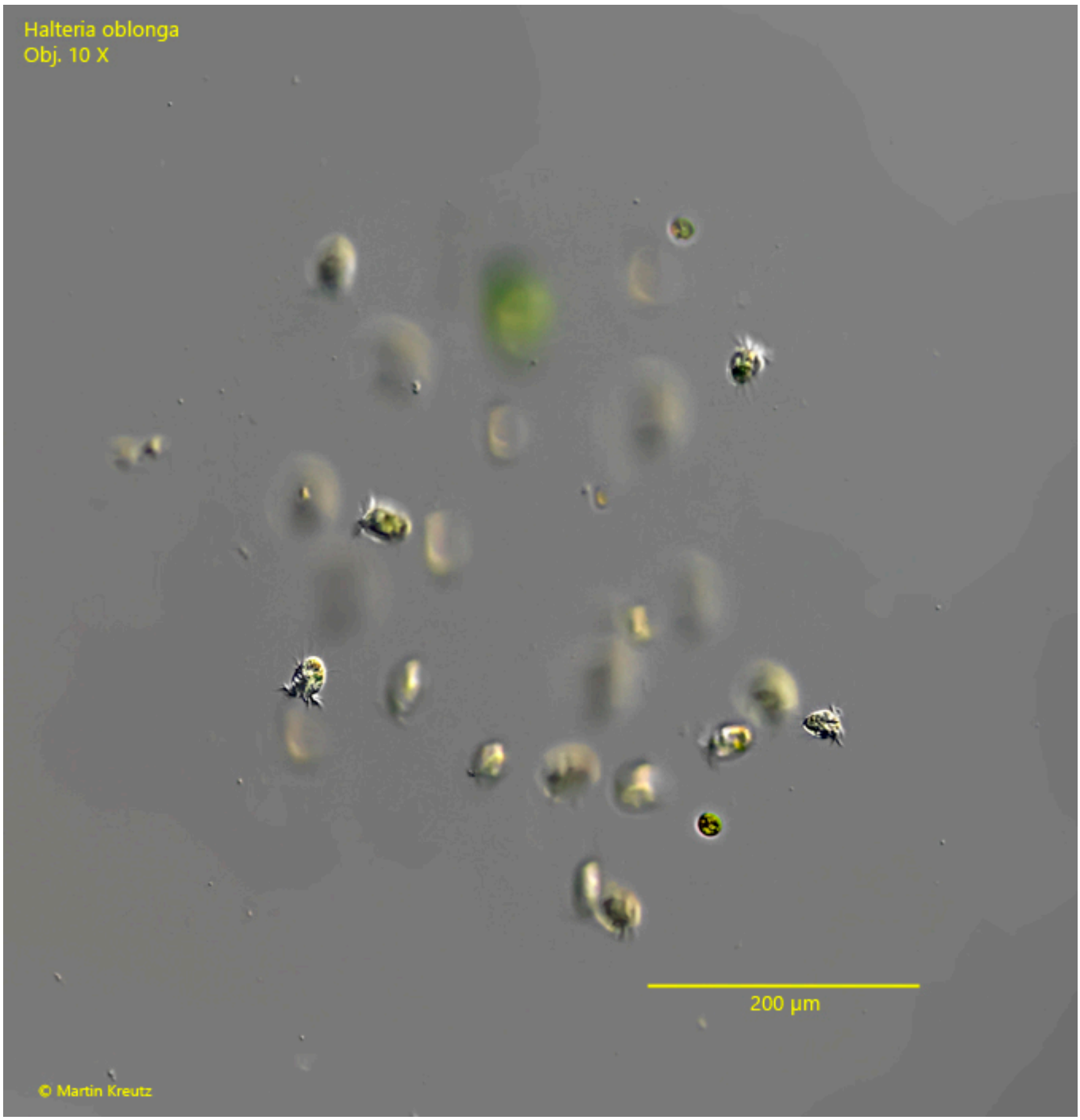


Fig. 1: *Halteria oblonga*. Several specimens in a piece of gelatinous mass of the algae *Chaetophora*. Obj. 10 X.

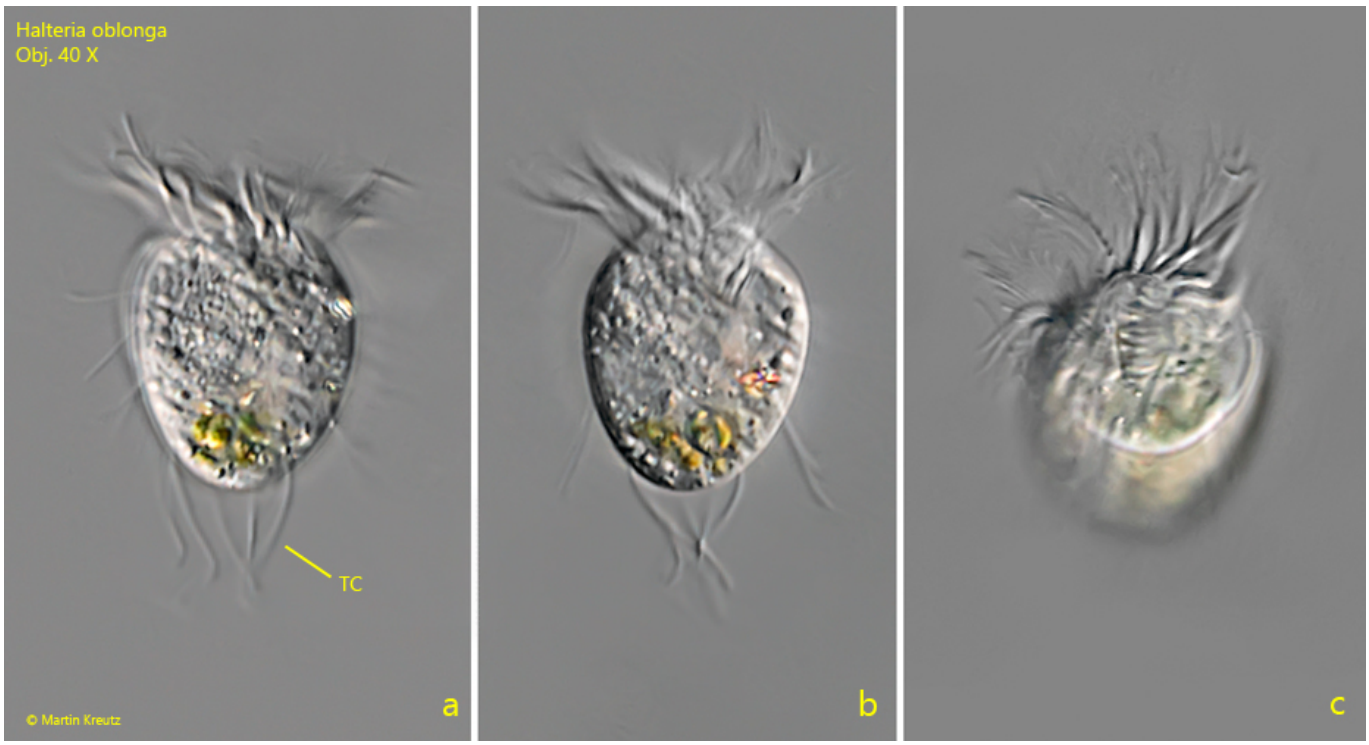


Fig. 2 a-c: *Halteria oblonga*. L = 43 µm. Lateral (a, b) and apical view of a freely swimming specimen. Note the tuft of trailing cilia (TC). Obj. 40 X.

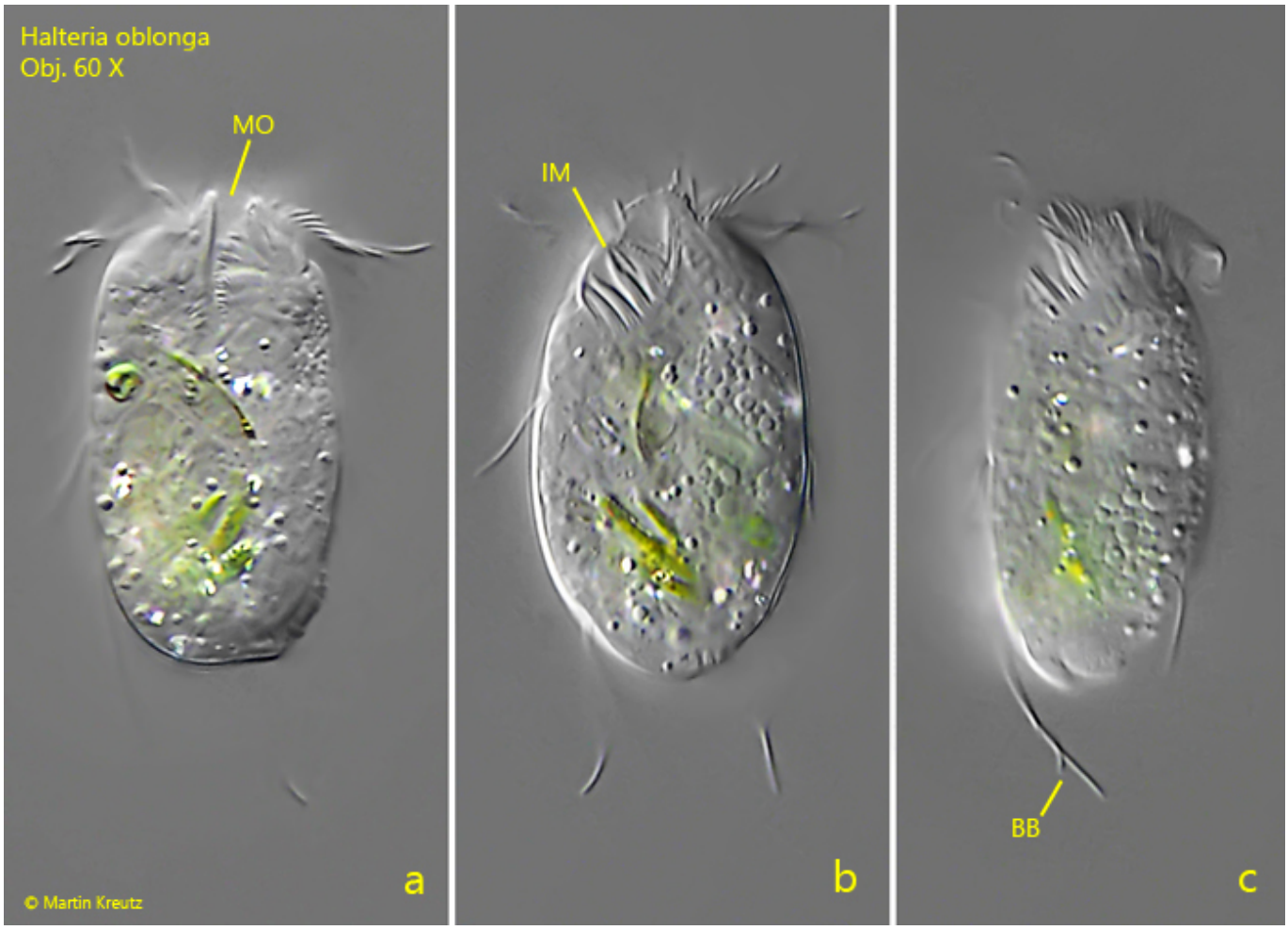


Fig. 3 a-c: *Halteria oblonga*. L = 42 µm. An almost ellipsoidal specimen. Note the bifurcated jumping bristles (BB). IM = inner membrelles of the adoral zone, Mo = mouth opening. Obj. 60 X.

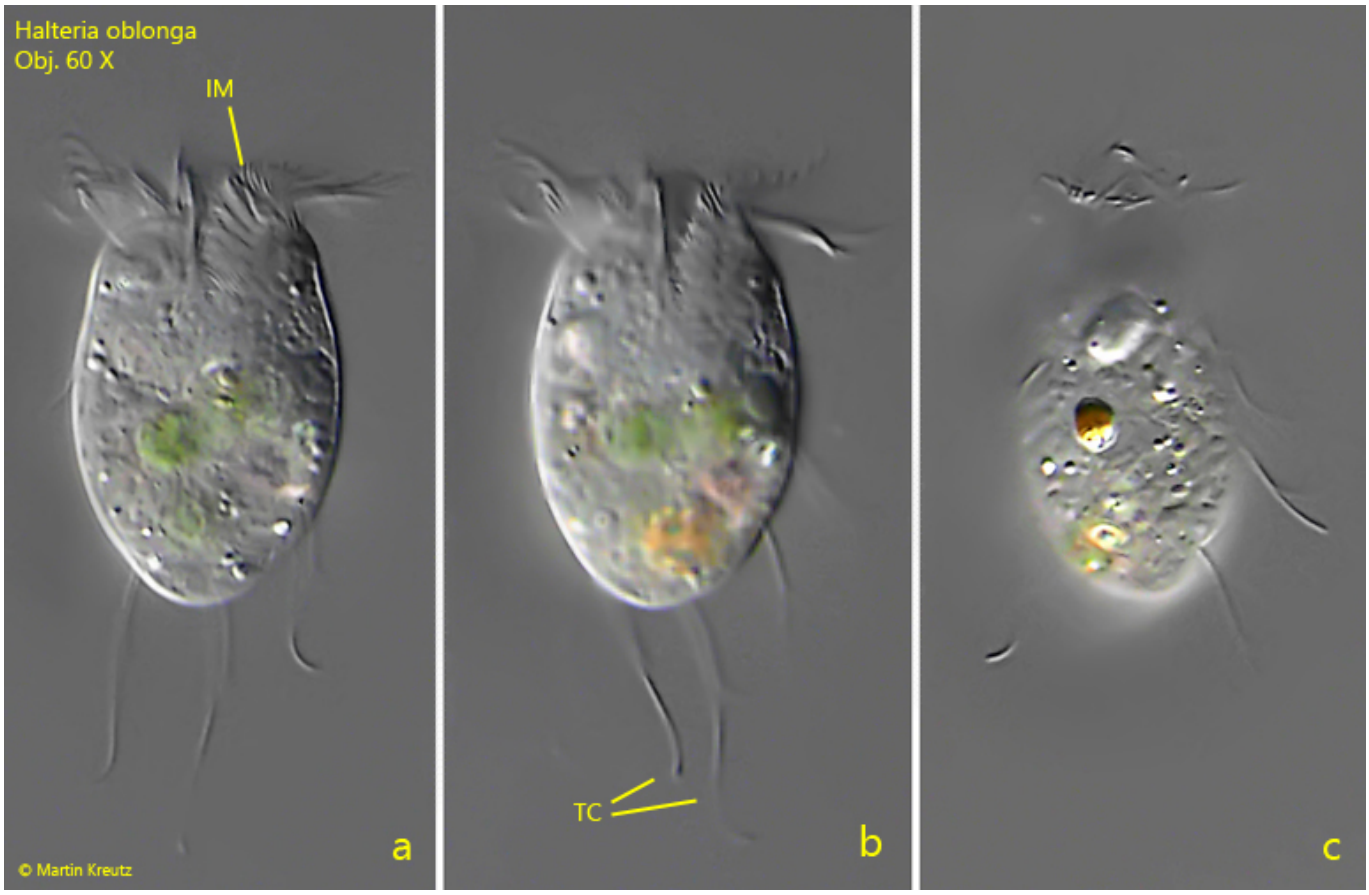


Fig. 4 a-c: *Halteria oblonga*. L = 42 µm. An oval specimen with long, S-shaped trailing cilia (TC). IM = inner membrelles of the adoral zone. Obj. 60 X.

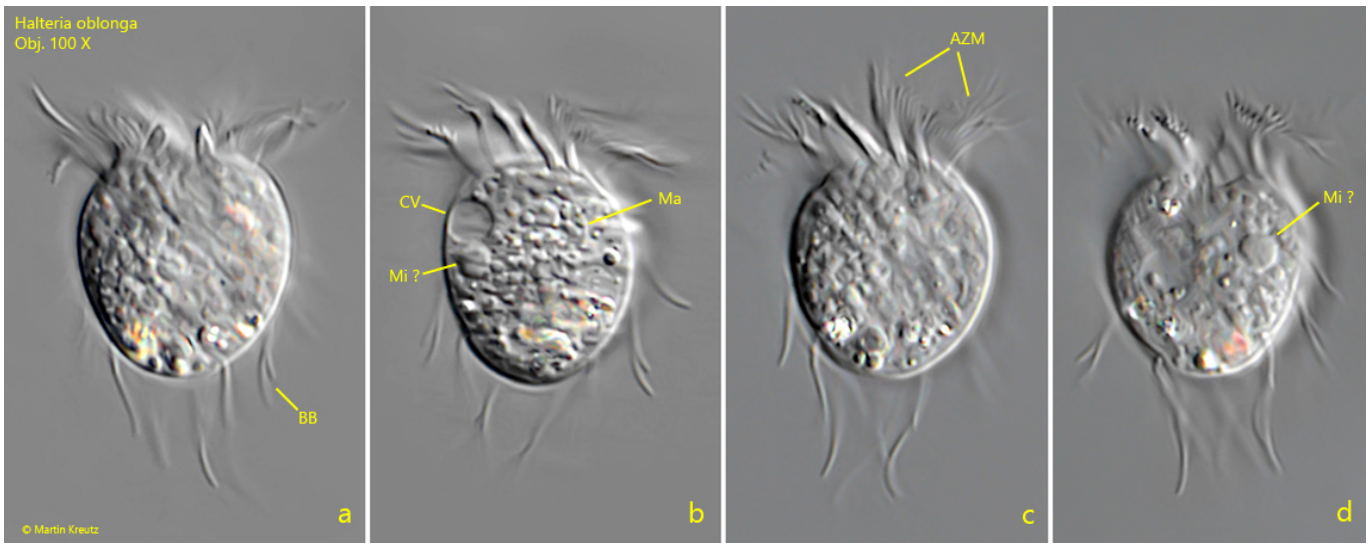


Fig. 5 a-d: *Halteria oblonga*. L = 42 µm. An broadly oval specimen. AZM = adoral zone of membranelles, BB = bifurcated jumping bristle, CV = contractile vacuole, Ma = macronucleus, Mi ? = probably the micronucleus. Obj. 100 X.