

Heliofrya minima

(Rieder, 1936) Foissner, 1988

Most likely ID: n.a.

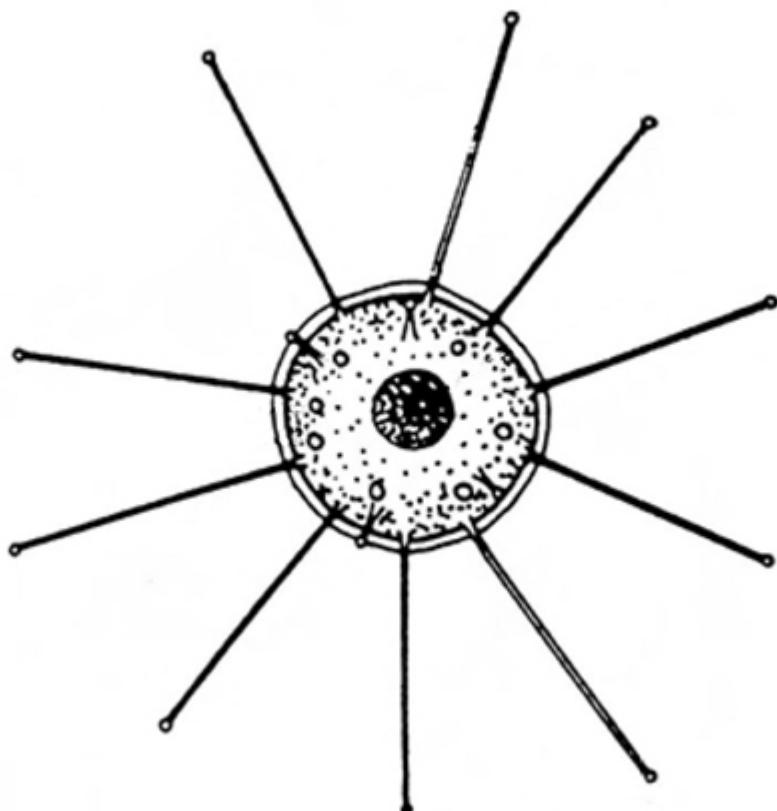
Synonyms: *Heliofrya riederi*, *Craspedophrya rotunda f. minima*

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Heliofrya minima](#)

Diagnosis:

- body discoid, flattened with hayline attachment ring
- no shell or stalk
- diameter 23–50 µm
- about 12 evenly spaced grouped tentacles with globular distal ends
- fully extended tentacles longer than body diameter
- macronucleus discoid in center of the cell
- one spherical micronucleus
- 1–13 contractile vacuoles (on average 5) in periphery of cell
- swarmer lenticular, 19 X 12 µm with 5 equatorial rows of cilia



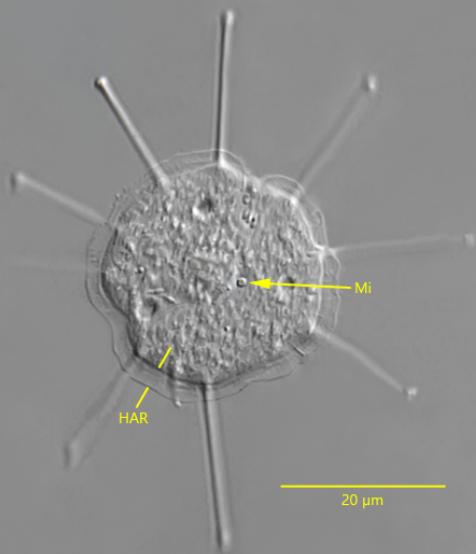
after Rieder

Heliophrya minima

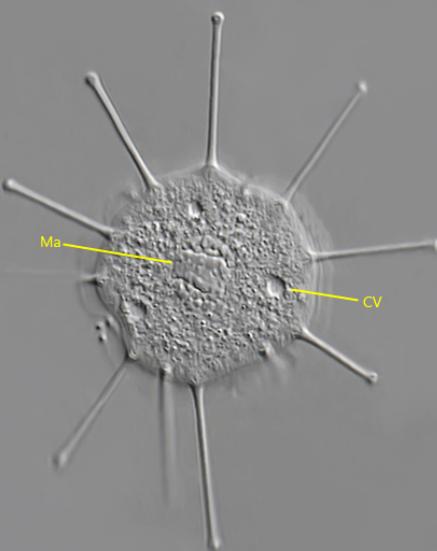
Heliophrya minima often settles on [floating coverslips](#) on samples from the Simmelried. However, I rarely find this suctor.

When *Heliophrya minima* settles on the [floating coverslip](#), it can be viewed from "below". This makes the hyaline attachment ring more easily visible by means of which the suctor attaches to the coverslip (s. fig. 1 a). Since *Heliophrya minima* usually reaches a diameter of only 35 μm and is very flat, one can easily focus through the cell body (s. fig. 1 a-c).

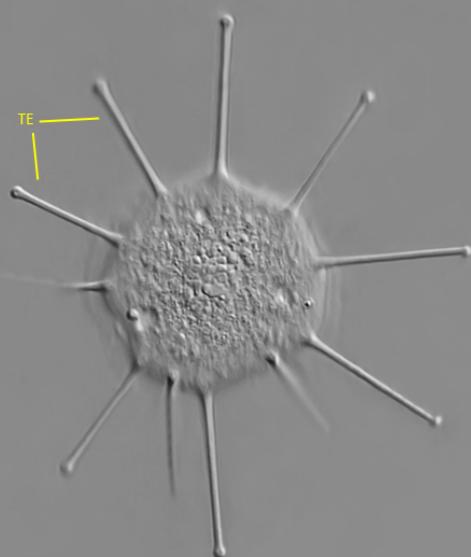
Heliophrya minima can be distinguished from its larger relative *Heliophrya rotunda* by the evenly spaced tentacles, which are always arranged in bundles in *Heliophrya rotunda*.



a



b



c

Fig. 1 a-c: *Heliophrya minima*. D = 36 μm . Three focal planes of sessile specimen attached to the coverslip. Note the hyaline attachment ring (HAR). CV = contractile vacuoles, Ma = macronucleus, Mi = micronucleus, TE = tentacles. Obj. 100 X