

Ichthydium skandicum

Kanneby, Todaro & Jondelius, 2009

Most likely ID: n.a.

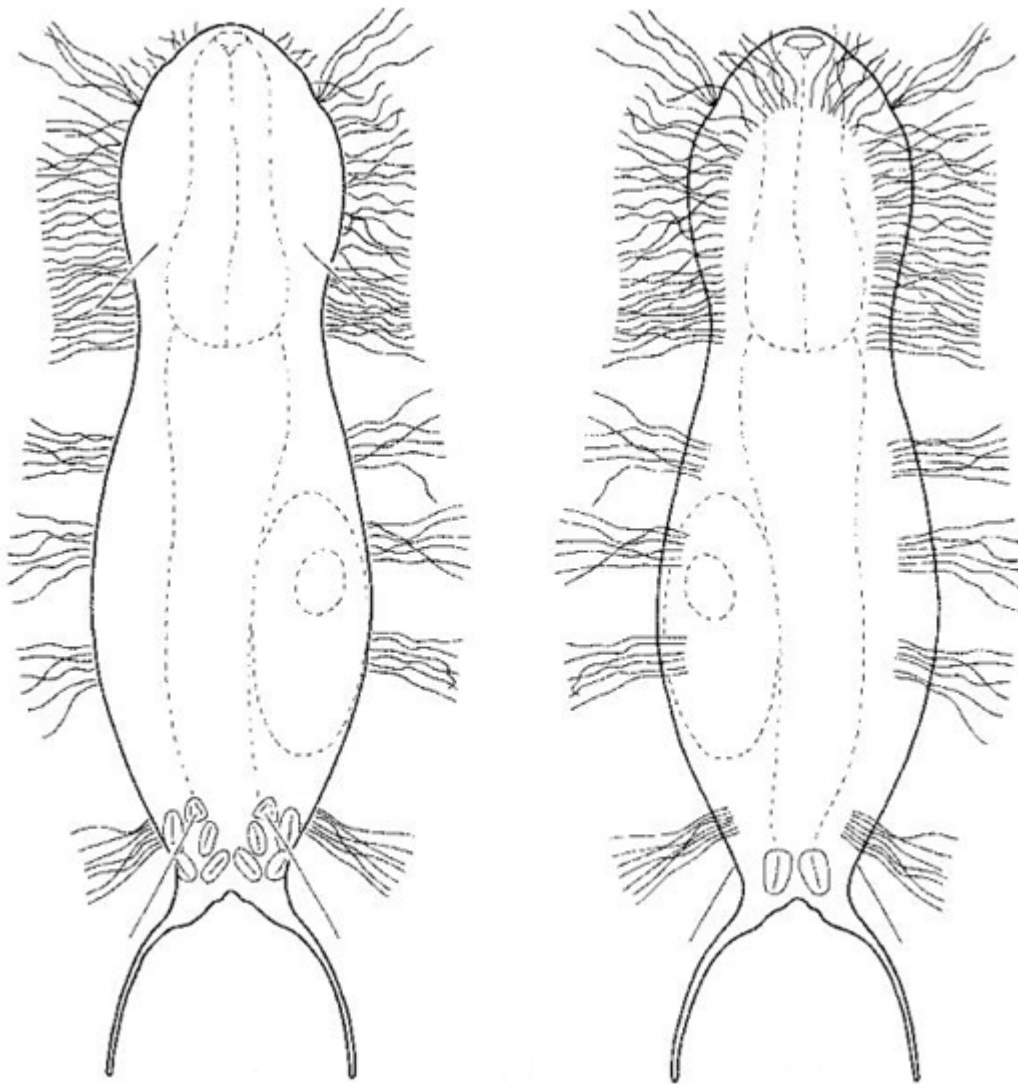
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Effluent of the sewage plant Constance, [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Ichthydium skandicum](#)

Diagnosis:

- body slender and elongated
- head three lobed, one pair of ciliary tufts
- length 132-142 µm
- pharynx cylindrical, posteriorly swollen
- two dorsal setolae emerging from keeled subrectangular scales
- dorsal 4 pairs of scales near base of furca
- furca strongly elongated, adhesive tubes pincer-shaped
- invagination between adhesive tubes
- ventral ciliation bands separated in 4 pairs of tufts
- ventral two subrectangular terminal scales



after Kanneby et al.

Ichthyidium skandicum

I have found three specimens of *Ichthyidium skandicum* so far. Two specimens came from the [Simmelried](#) and one from the effluent of the sewage plant Constance. The latter location is quite surprising, as the effluent is heavily eutrophicated.

Ichthyidium skandicum was only described by Kanneby et al. in 2009. This may be due to the fact that the features for identification are not easy to see. The main feature are the 4 pairs of scales, which are located dorsally directly at the base of the furcae (s. fig. 3). Apart from the scales from which the sensory bristles arise (s. fig. 3), the entire dorsal side is naked. This arrangement of the dorsal scales can only be recognized in strongly squashed specimens. Otherwise *Ichthyidium skandicum* is very similar to the similar species *Ichthyidium forficula* and *Ichthyidium tanytrichum*, which, however, are naked on the dorsal side. In addition, *Ichthyidium forficula* is somewhat larger and more slender while *Ichthyidium tanytrichum* is smaller and stockier.

On the ventral side *Ichthyidium scandicum* is naked apart from the two almost rectangular terminal scales (s. figs. 4 b and 5). The two ventral ciliary bands are not continuous but divided into 4 separate tufts (s. fig. 5).

The specimens of my population were 135–136 μm long. Obviously, the range of variation is very small and corresponds exactly to the range given by Kanneby et al. (132–142 μm).

Ichthyidium skandicum
Obj. 100 X



a

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b

Fig. 1 a-b: *Ichthyidium skandicum*. L = 136 μ m. Two focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen from dorsal. Note the two posterior sensory bristles (PSB) on papillae. The pharynx (PH) is slightly swollen at both ends. ASB = anterior sensory bristles, AT = adhesive tubes. Obj. 100 X.

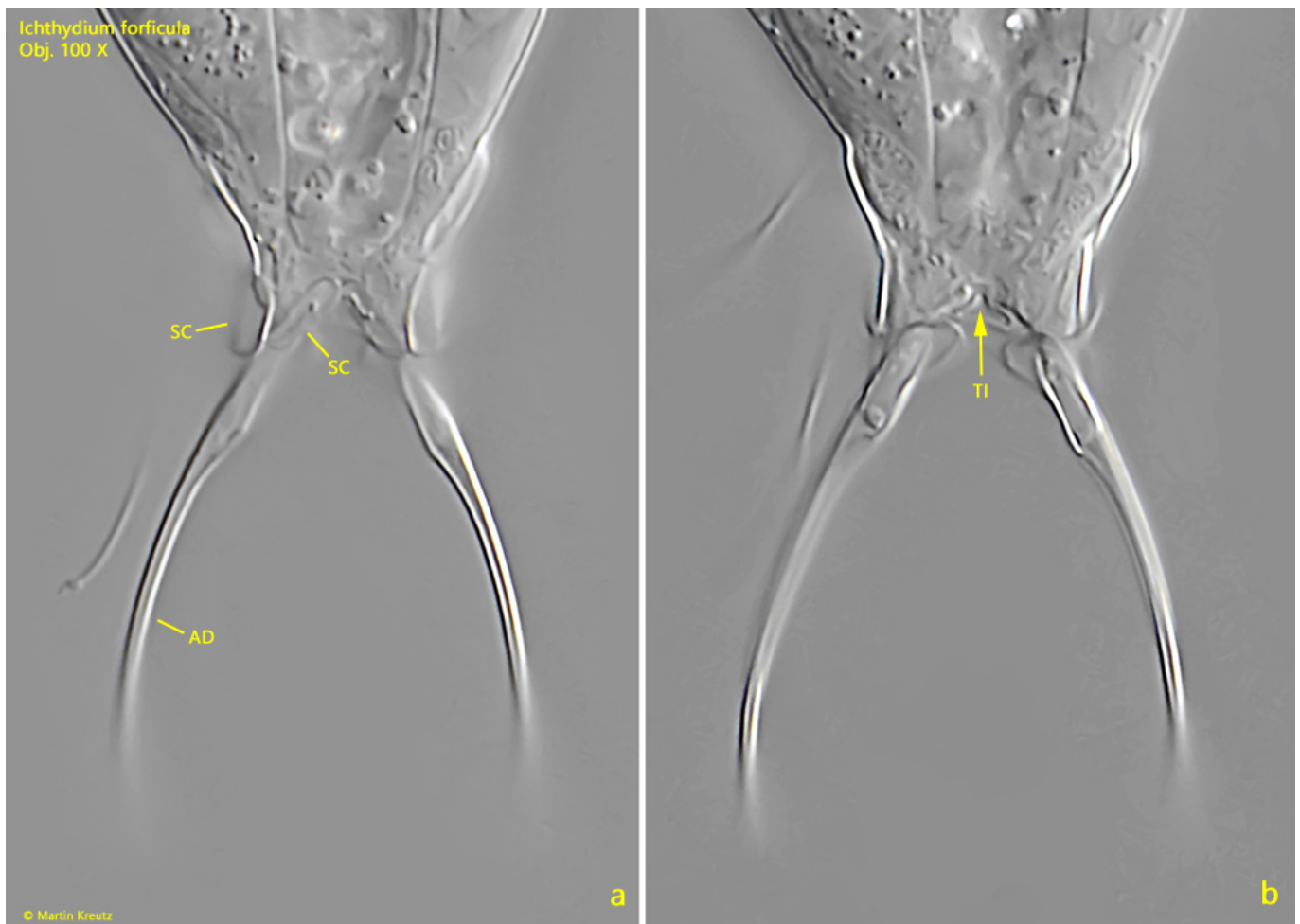


Fig. 2 a-b: *Ichthyidium skandicum*. Two focal planes of the posterior end from dorsal with the pincer-shaped adhesive tubes (AT). Note the scales (SC) adhering to the base of the tubes and the terminal invagination (TI) between the adhesive tubes. Obj. 100 X.

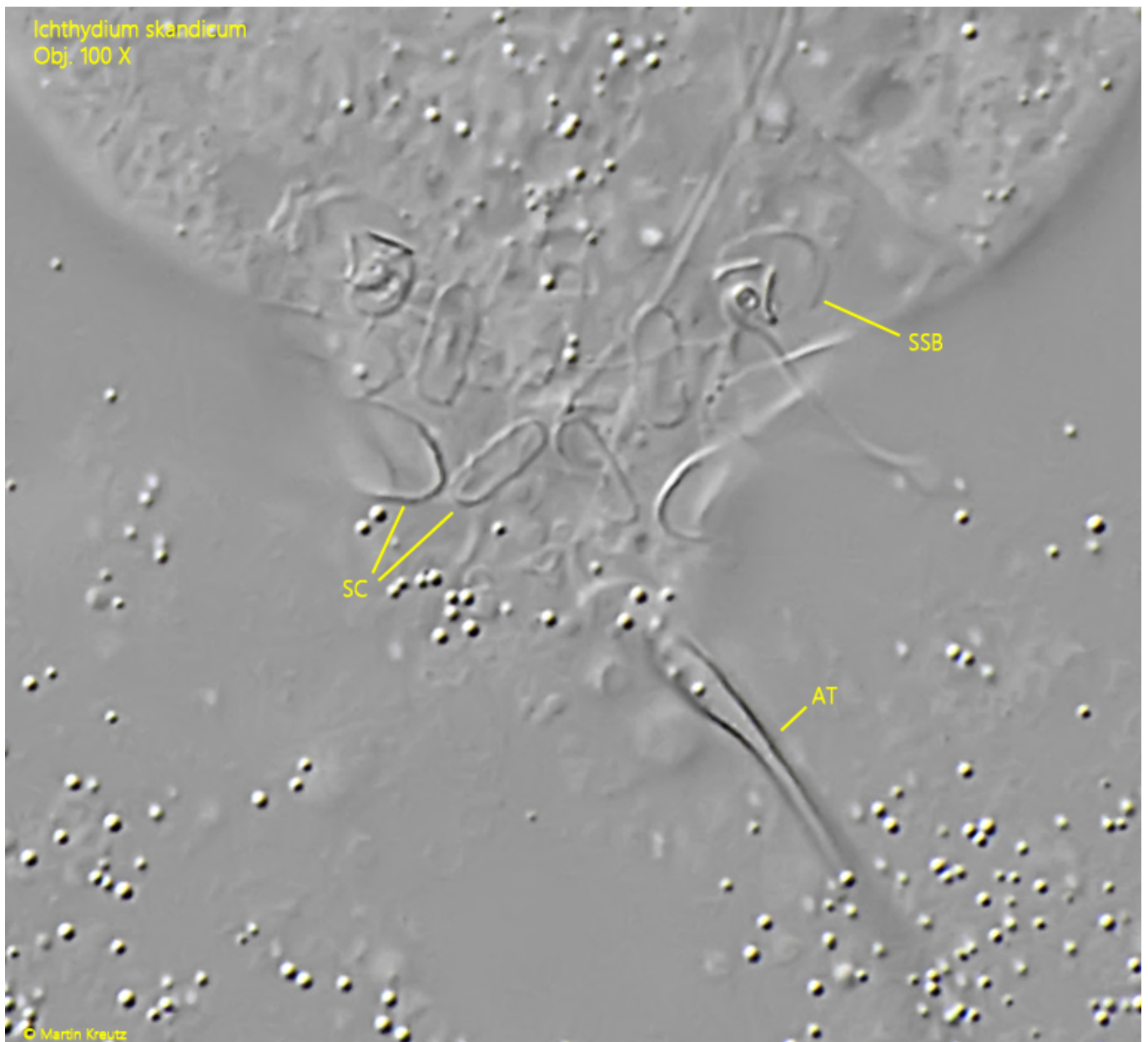
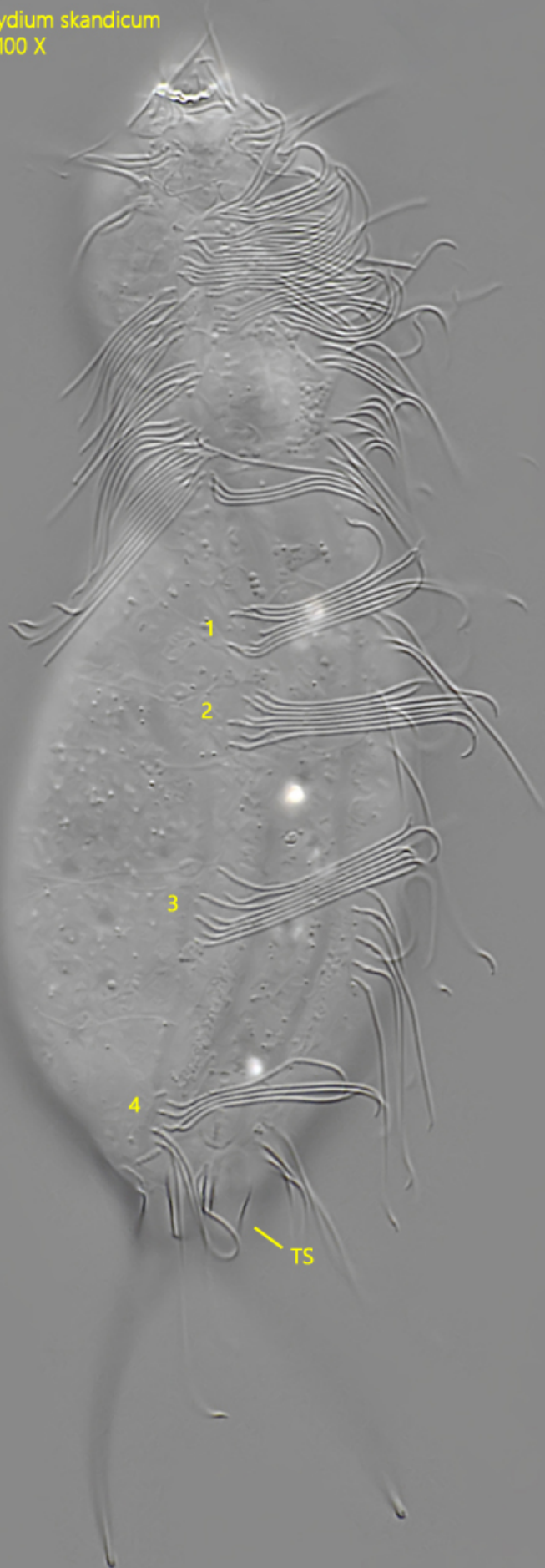


Fig. 3: *Ichthydium skandicum*. The arrangement of the dorsal scales (SC) near the posterior end in a squashed specimen. Note the scale of the sensory bristle (SSB). Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 4 a-b: *Ichthyidium skandicum*. L = 135 μ m. A second specimen from ventral. Note the almost rectangular terminal scales (TS). Obj. 100 X.

Ichthyidium skandicum
Obj. 100 X



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Fig. 5: *Ichthydium skandicum*. L = 135 μ m. The squashed specimen as shown in fig. 3 a-b from ventral. The ventral ciliary bands are separated in 4 tufts (1-4). TS = terminal scales. Obj. 100 X.