

Lembadion lucens
(Maskell, 1887) Kahl, 1931

Most likely ID: n.a.

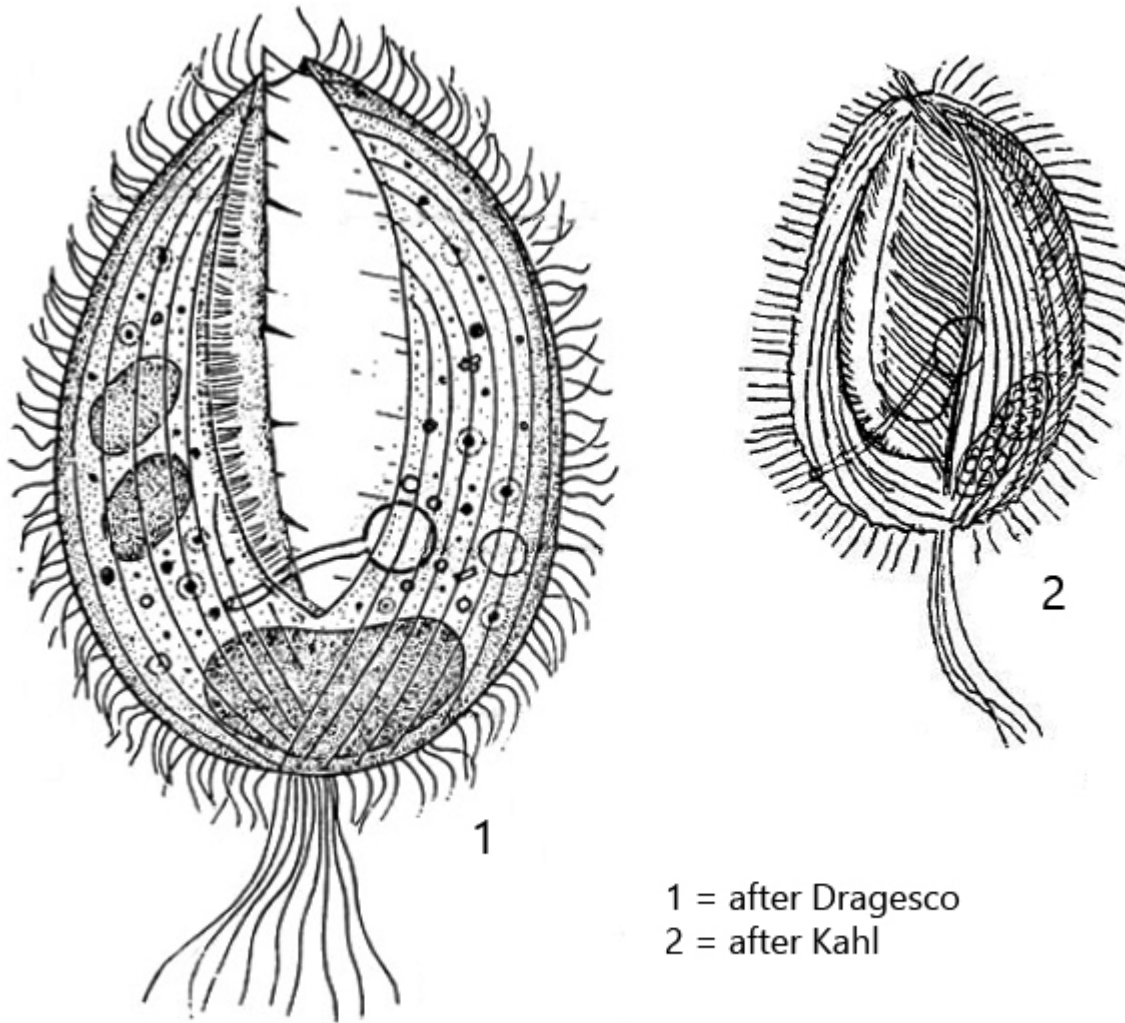
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Ulmisried](#), [Simmelried](#), [Busenried](#), [Bündtlisried](#),
[Purren pond](#), [Mainau pond](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Lembadion lucens](#)

Diagnosis:

- cell is ovoid shaped
- length 50 – 100 µm, width 30 – 50 µm
- very large oral apparatus reaching down to posterior third
- left side of oral apparatus an adoral membranelle of cilia glued together
- right side of oral apparatus an undulating membrane (hard to see)
- pellicle sculpture with pattern of regularly arranged squares, turns into stripes at the anterior end
- contractile vacuole is connected via a channel with the ventral excretion porus
- macronucleus oval or kidney shaped in the posterior third with an adjacent spherical micronucleus
- posterior end with a tuft of cilia, about 30 µm long



1 = after Dragesco
2 = after Kahl

Lembadion lucens

Lembadion lucens is a very common ciliate and is found in all my sampling sites. It is very easy to recognize by the large mouth opening, which reaches down to the posterior third of the body and the tuft of caudal cilia, which become quite long. Then at higher magnification you can see the pattern of regularly arranged squares in slightly squashed specimens. According to my observations this ciliate is not particularly fastidious with food and feeds on bacteria, algae and also small ciliates. This is in agreement with the observations of other authors. *Lembadion lucens* can be best distinguished from the similar species *Lembadion bullinum* by its size. If the length is smaller than 100 μm it is *Lembadion lucens*. The larger species *Lembadion bullinum* is 120 – 200 μm long. In my populations of *Lembadion lucens* the ciliate reaches an overall length of mostly 60 – 80 μm .



Fig. 1: *Lembadion lucens*. L = 57 μ m. Ventral view of a freely swimming specimen. Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 2: *Lembadion lucens*. L = 80 μ m. Ventral view of a second freely swimming specimen. Obj. 60 X.

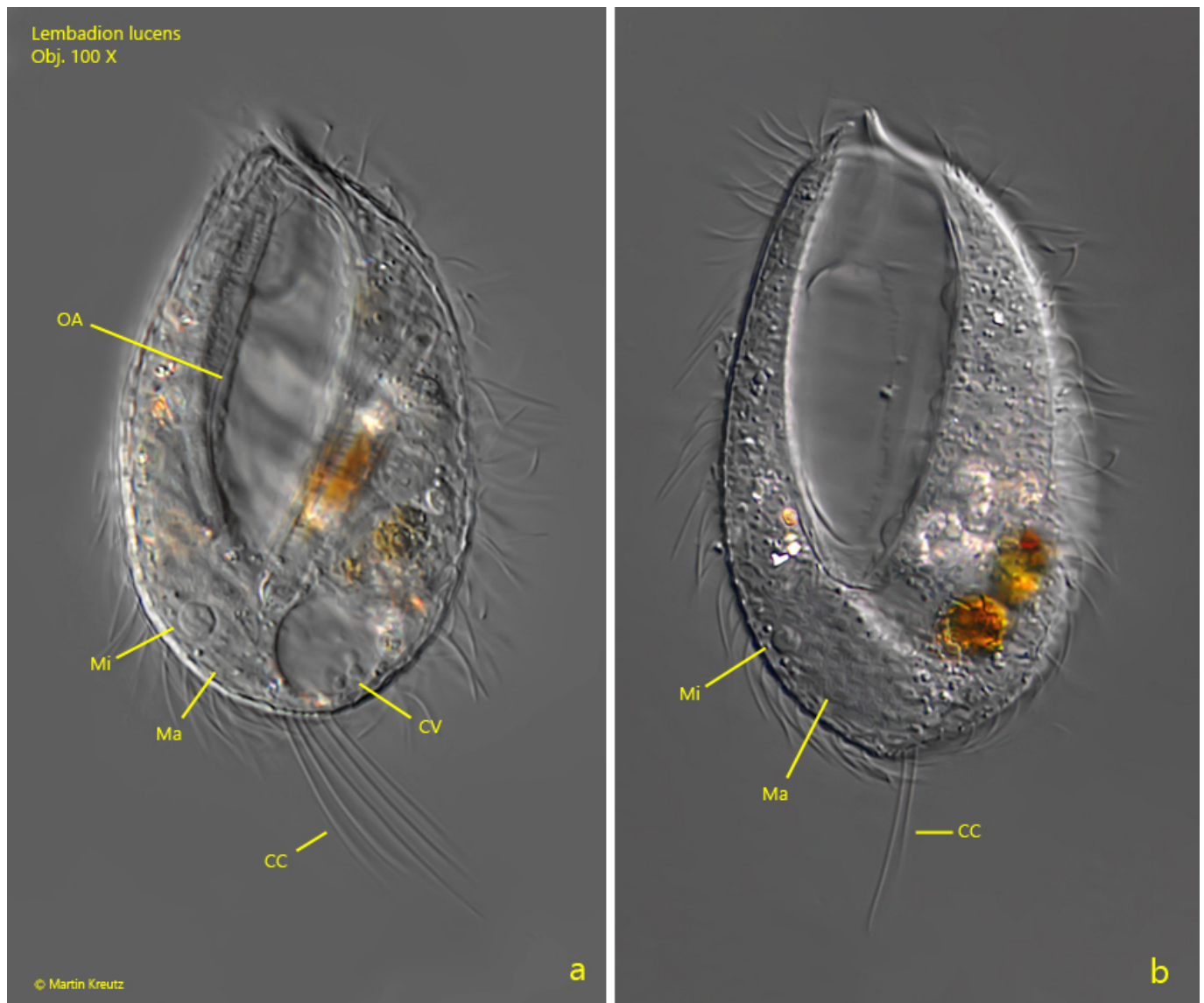


Fig. 3 a-b: *Lembadion lucens*. L = 60 μ m. Ventral view of a slightly squashed specimen. CC = tuft of caudal cilia, CV = contractile vacuole, Ma = macronucleus, Mi = micronucleus, OA = oral apparatus. Obj. 100 X.

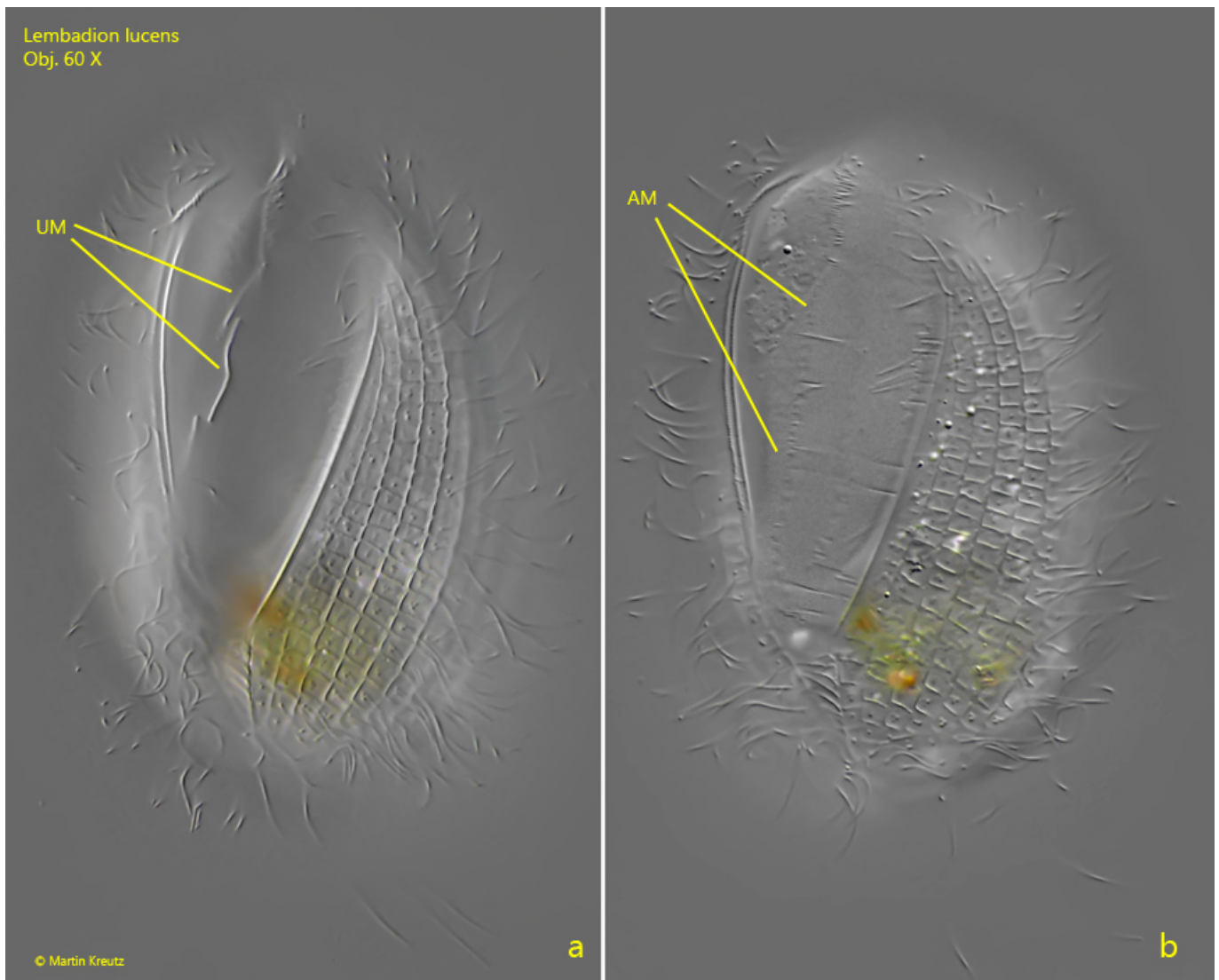


Fig. 4 a-b: *Lembadion lucens*. L = 80 μ m. a) ventral view of a slightly squashed specimen with focus on the undulating membrane (UM). b) the same specimen with focus on the adorale membranelle (AM). Obj. 60 X.

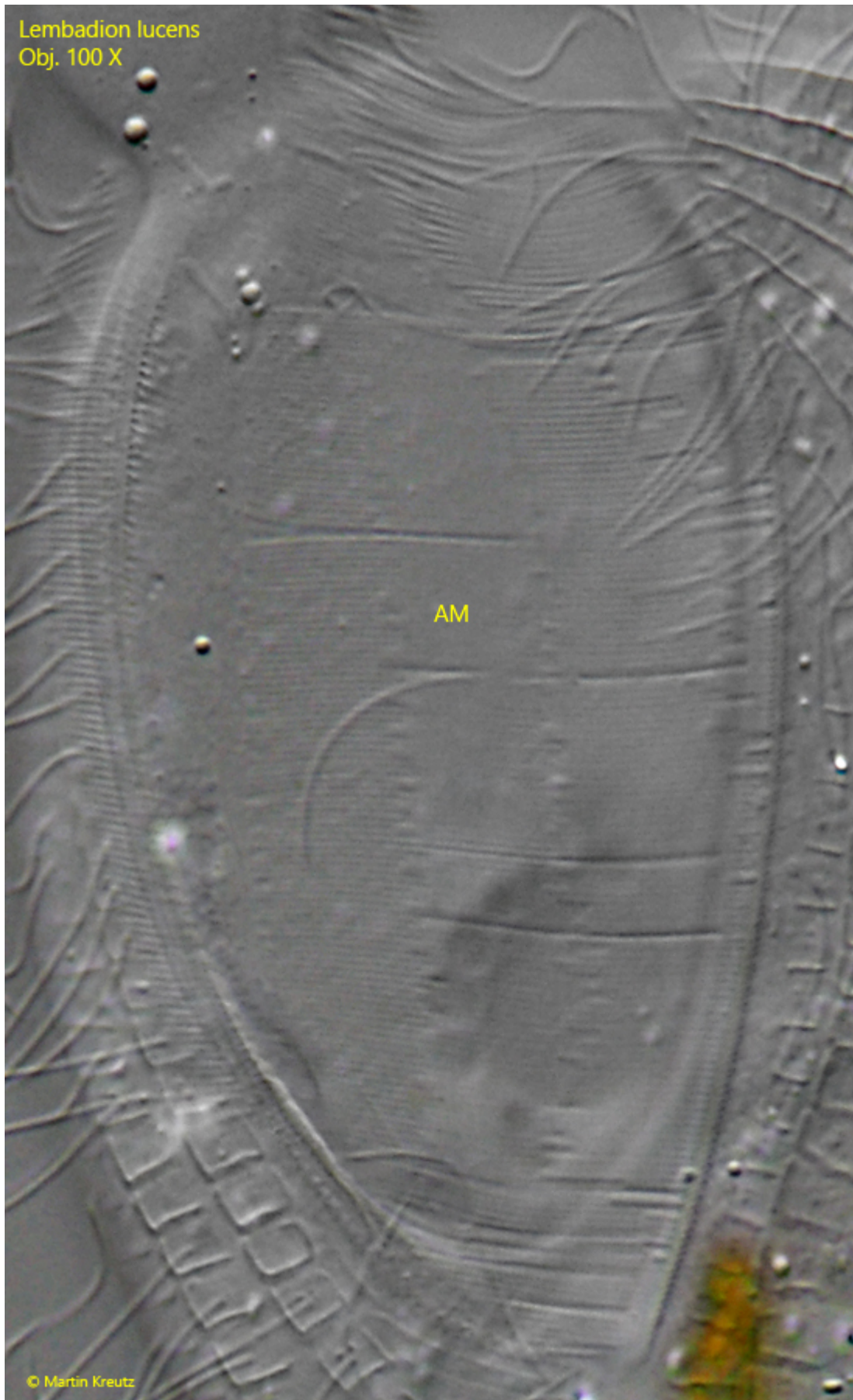


Fig. 5: *Lembadion lucens*. The adoral membranelle (AM) consists of cilia glued together. These can only be visualized at highest magnification. They are arranged

in an extremely regular manner. The interciliary distance is 0.38 μm . Obj. 100 X.

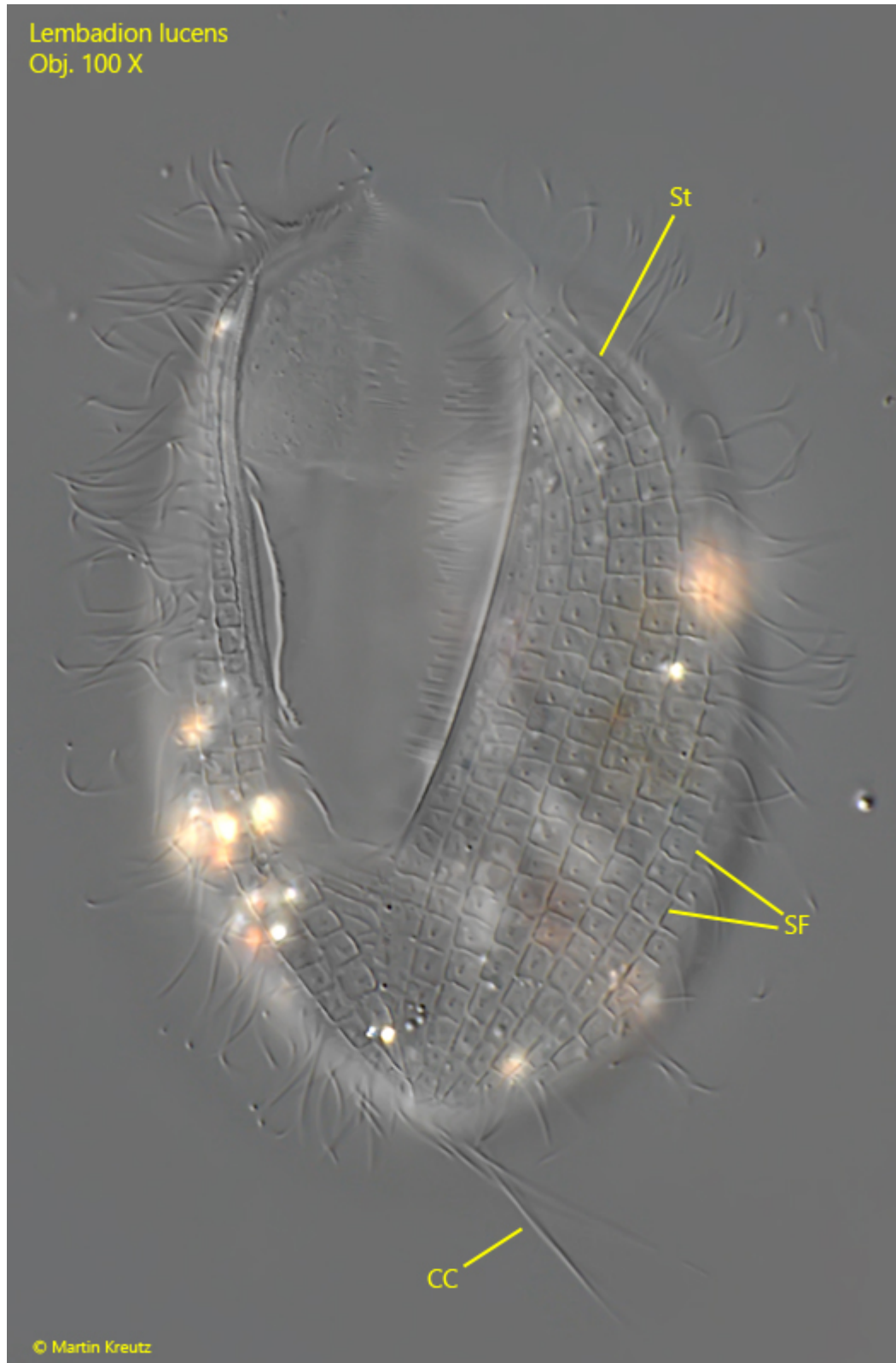


Fig. 6: *Lembadion lucens*. L = 60 μm . Ventral view of a squashed specimen with focus on the pattern of square fields (SF) of the pellicle. At the anterior end, the square fields turn into stripes (St). CC = caudal cilia. Obj. 100 X.

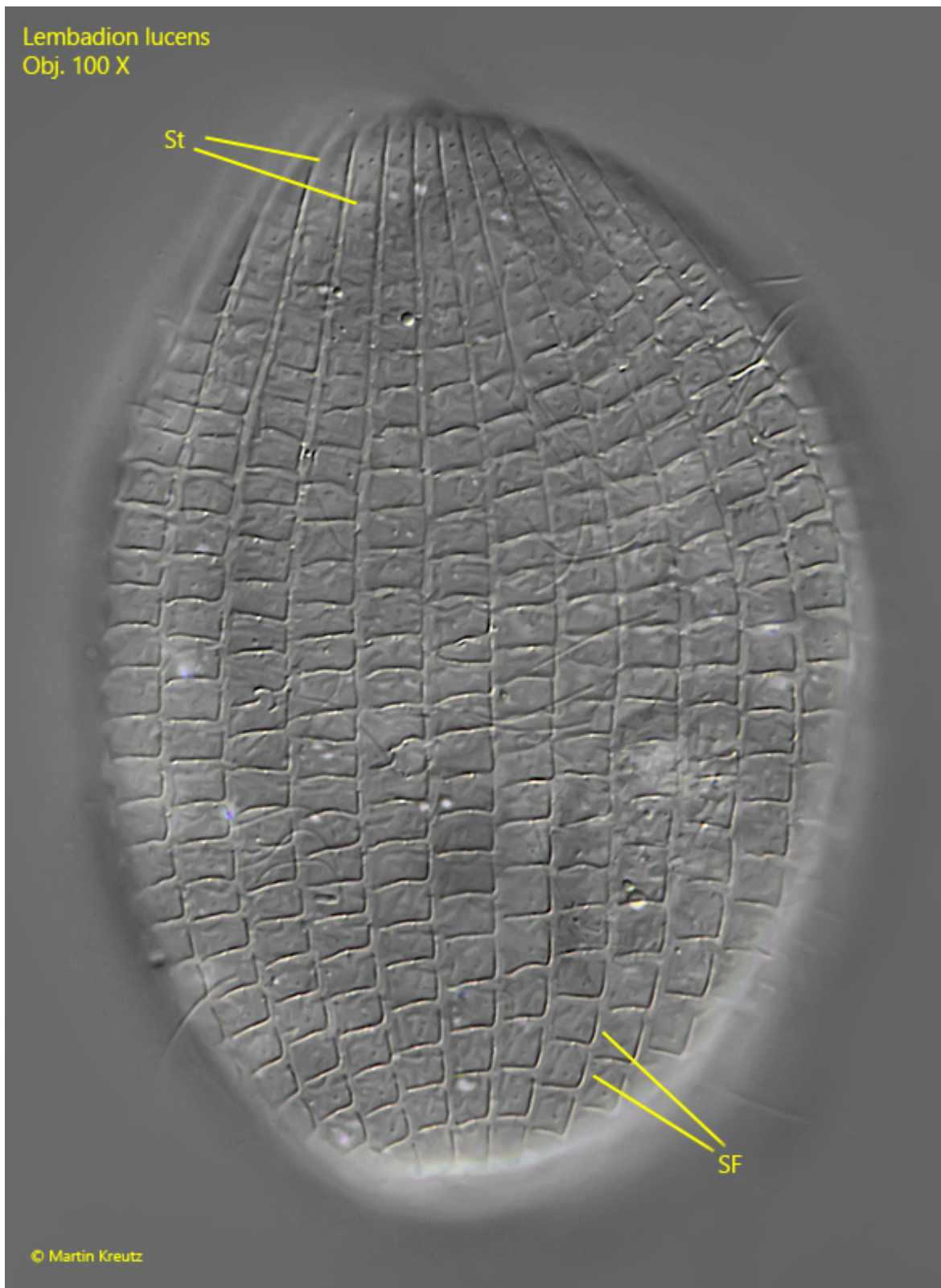


Fig. 7: *Lembadion lucens*. L = 60 μ m. Dorsal view the same squashed specimen as in Fig. 6 with focus on the pattern of square fields (SF) of the pellicle. At the anterior end, the square fields turn into stripes (St). Obj. 100 X.

Lembadion lucens
Obj. 100 X



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Fig. 8: *Lembadion lucens*. In this strongly squashed specimen the channel (CH) between the contractile vacuole (CV) and the excretion porus is visible. The

excretion porus is located dorsally and not visible in this focal plane. FV = food vacuoles, Ma = macronucleus, Mi = micronucleus, OA = oral apparatus. Obj. 100 X.