

Leptopharynx euglenivorus

Kahl, 1926

Most likely ID: n.a.

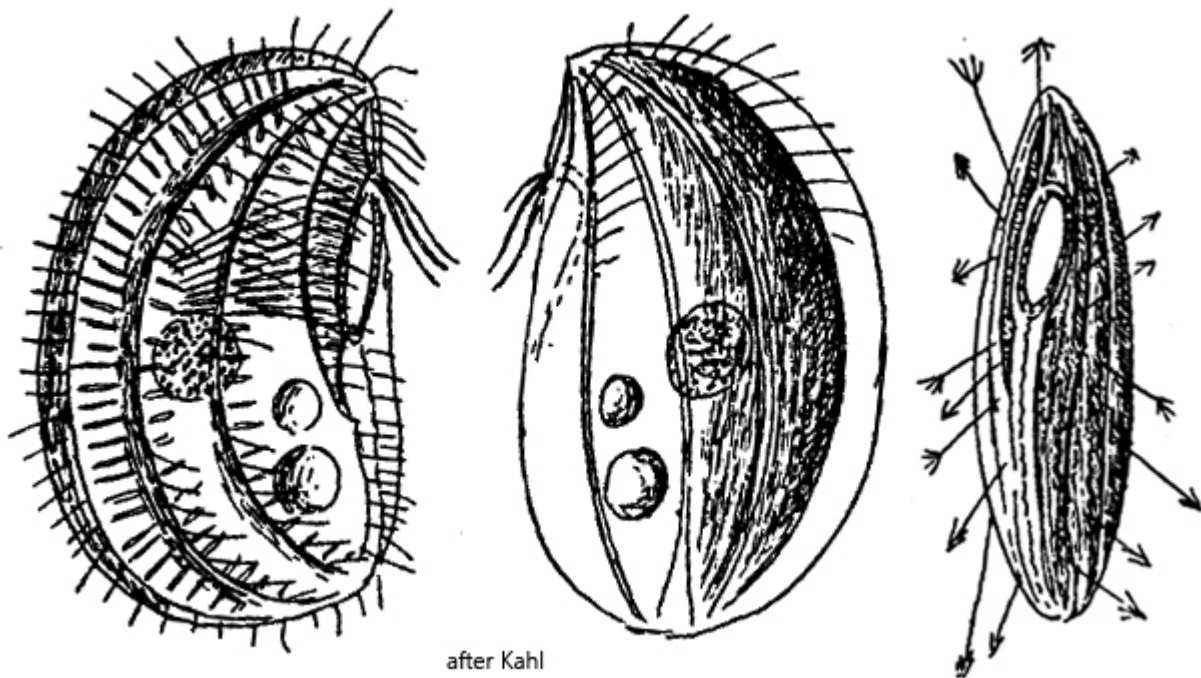
Synonyms: *Trichopelma euglenivora*, *Leptopharynx euglenivora*

Sampling location: Diebelsee (near Johannisthal)

Phylogenetic tree: [Leptopharynx euglenivorus](#)

Diagnosis:

- body ellipsoidal, laterally flattened
- ventral side is more flattened than the convex dorsal side
- length 40–50 µm
- oral basket broad, clearly visible
- macronucleus globular
- cytoplasm with green food vacuoles
- fusiform extrusomes in furrows of pellicle
- two contractile vacuoles below cell equator
- feeding on euglenids



Leptopharynx euglenivorus

I found a few specimens of *Leptopharynx euglenivorus* in May 2026 in samples from the Diebelsee near Johannisthal. The Diebelsee has a moor-like character. The samples were taken from stands of *Sphagnum* moss mixed with *Utricularia* spec.

The ciliate *Leptopharynx euglenivorus* was first described by Kahl in 1926 as "*Trichopelma (Leptopharynx) euglenivora*". The name was corrected in 2011 by Foissner, Wolf, Yashchenko & Stoeck to *Leptopharynx euglenivorus* as an adaptation to the masculine "*Leptopharynx*".

Apart from Kahl's brief descriptions of *Leptopharynx euglenivorus*, there are no further data or drawings of this ciliate. As important identification features, Kahl lists the clearly visible green food vacuoles and a well-visible and large oral basket. In addition, the ribs on each side of the body are said to meet apically in a short projection (beak-shaped).

The green food vacuoles were present in all specimens of my population. In Kahl's population, the green contents came from ingested *Lepocinclis* spec. (name). In my population, they were very small algae of an unknown genus and source (s. fig. 1 a). But they were not euglenids. I could clearly recognize the oral basket (s. figs. 1 b, 1 c and 2 b) in the anterior third. The lateral ribs were only weakly developed. The extrusomes under the pellicle followed their course. As far as I could see, the ribs

also met apically.

The specimens in my population were all between 50–70 μm long and thus larger than described by Kahl (40–50 μm). However, since only a few populations of *Leptopharynx euglenivorus* have been investigated so far (Kahl found the species only twice), little is known about the variability within the species. Due to the size of the specimens, the algal diet, and the clearly visible oral basket, all characteristics of *Leptopharynx euglenivorus* are present.

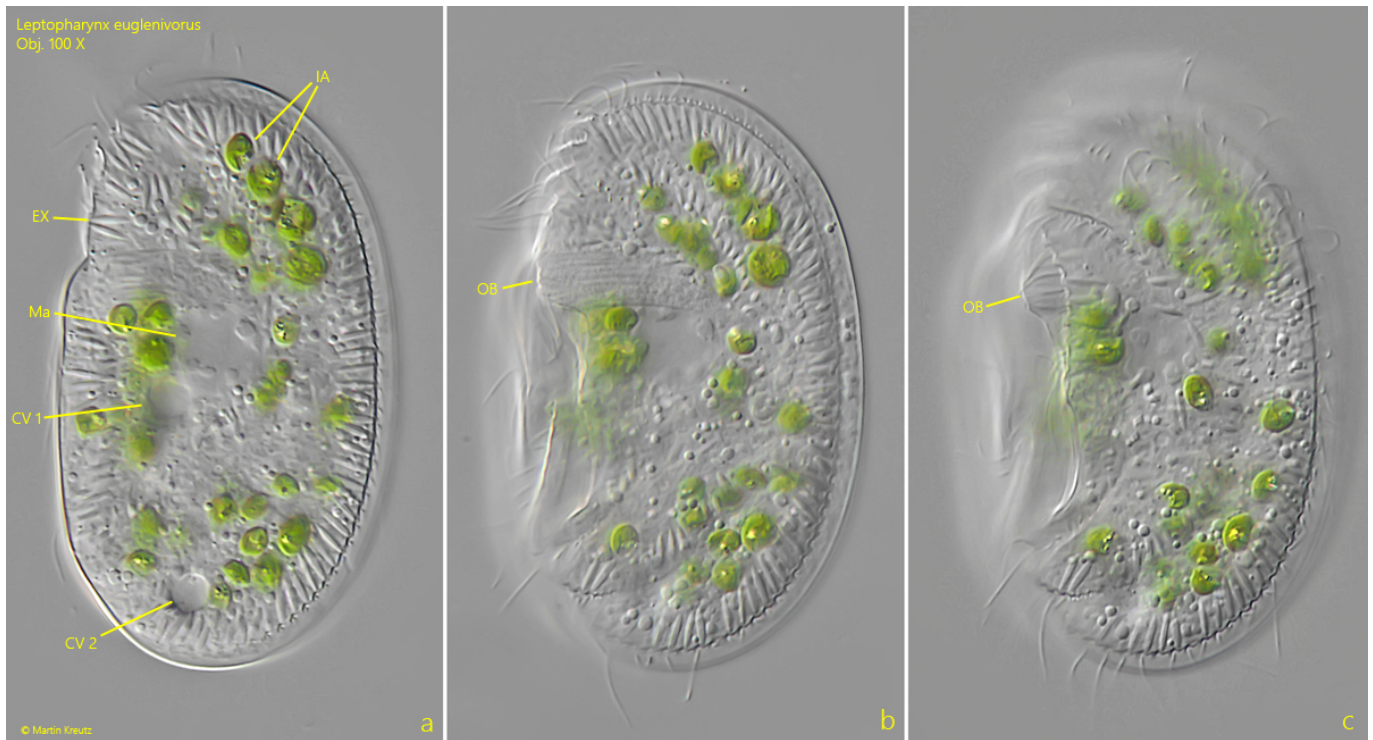


Fig. 1 a-c: *Leptopharynx euglenivorus*. L = 68 μm . Three focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen from left. Note the two contractile vacuoles (CV 1, CV 2) and the green ingested algae (IA). EX = extrusomes, Ma = macronucleus, OB = oral basket. Obj. 100 X.

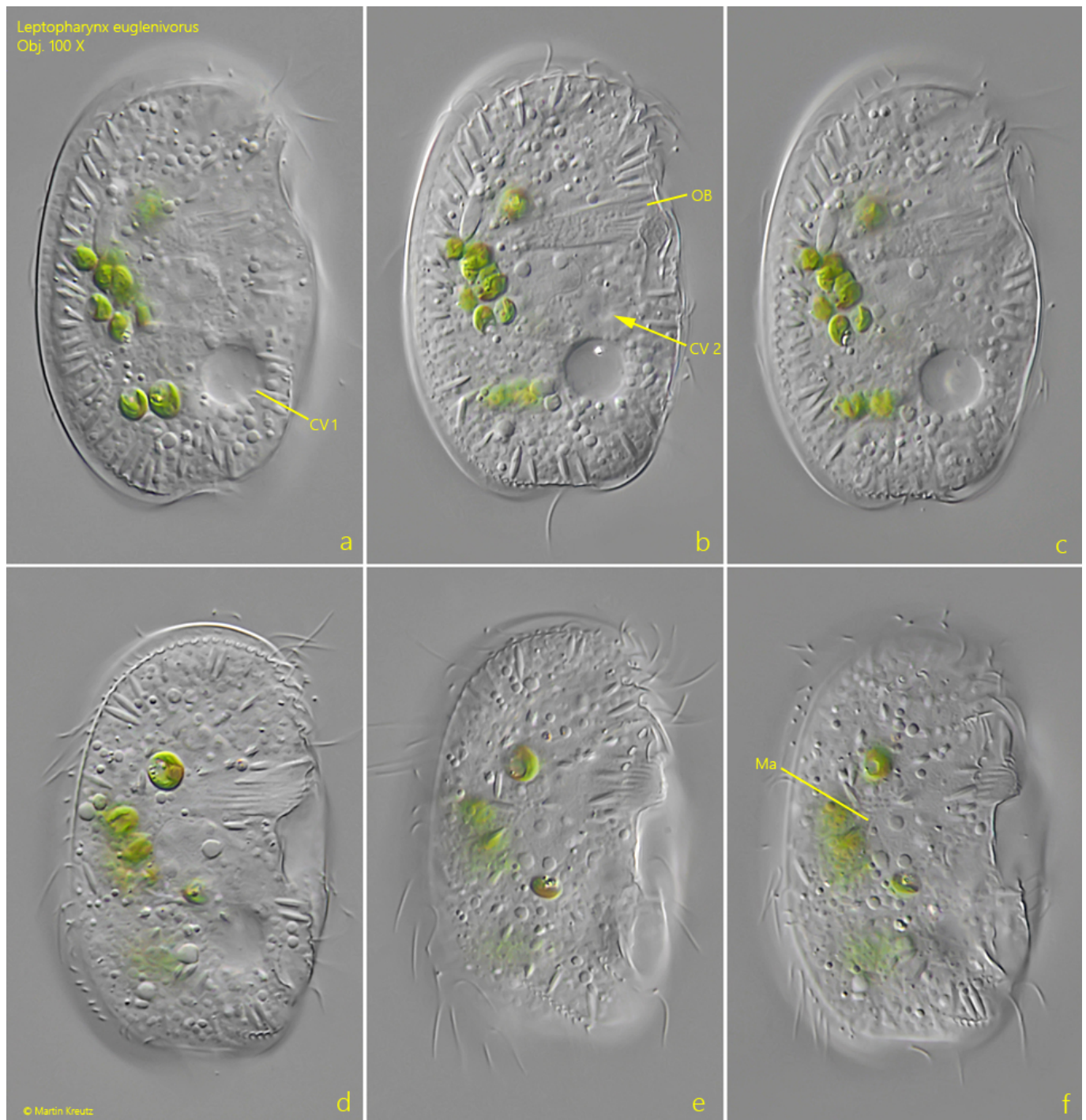


Fig. 2 a-f: *Leptopharynx euglenivorus*. L = 55 μ m. A second, smaller specimen from right. CV 1, CV 2 = contractile vacuoles, Ma = macronucleus, OB = oral basket. Obj. 100 X.