

Macrochaetus subquadratus

Perty, 1850

Most likely ID: n.a.

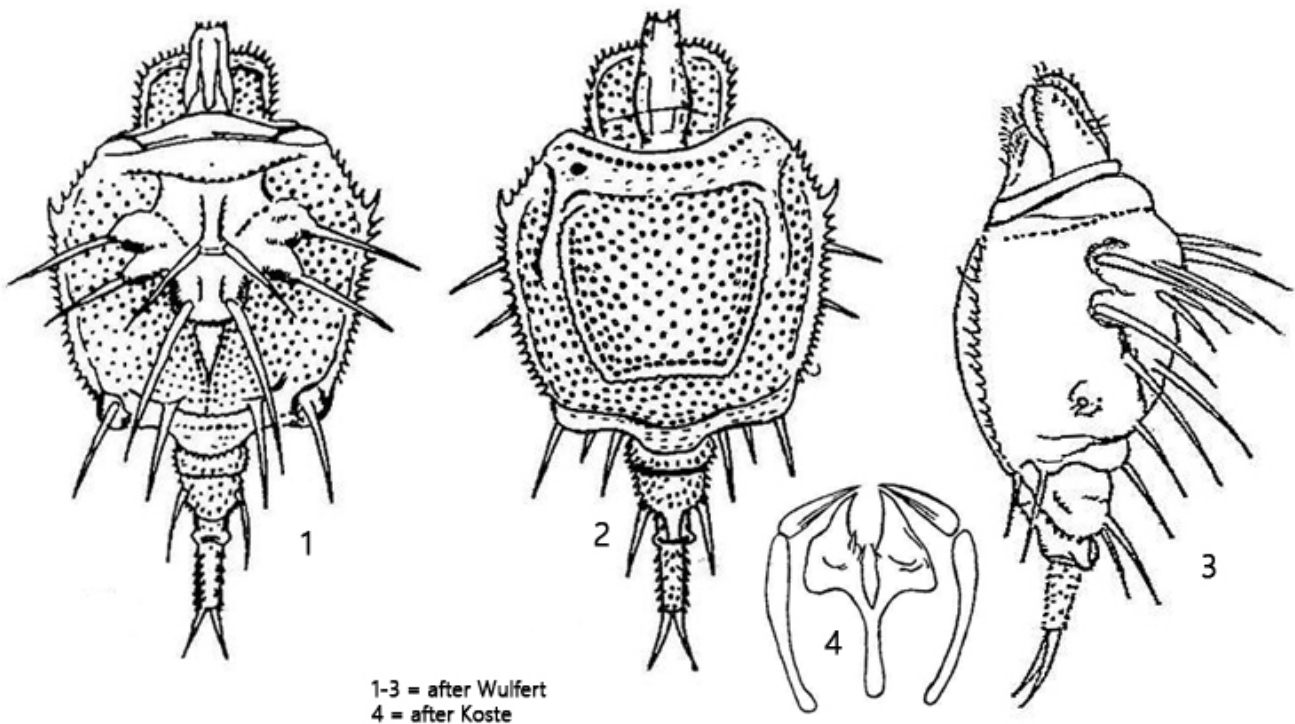
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Paradieswiesen \(Austria\)](#), [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Macrochaetus subquadratus](#)

Diagnosis:

- lorica almost quadrangular, shoulder rounded
- margin of lorica with fine teeth
- length 141-224 μm
- head when contracted tube-like with lateral folds
- dorsal side with 14 long spines
- ventral side flat
- foot double segmented
- toes cylindrical and pointed
- one eyespot



Macrochaetus subquadratus

So far I have only found *Macrochaetus subquadratus* in the [Simmelried](#) and the [Paradieswiesen](#), where the species is rare and I only find specimens sporadically. I found the specimens between floating plant masses.

Macrochaetus subquadratus is very strikingly shaped and stands out even at small magnifications due to its 14 long dorsal spines (s. figs. 2 a-b, 3 and 5). The entire lorica is rigid and armed with small teeth in addition to the long spines. The lorica is also clearly granulated. The ventral side is flat with a distinct pattern of granules and small spine at the anterior margin of the lorica (s. fig. 4).

There are about 10 species within the genus *Macrochaetus*, all of which have loricae with long spines. It is therefore important to examine the number and position of these spines in detail in order to determine the exact species. So far I have found only *Macrochaetus subquadratus*, which seems to be the most common species in Central Europe.

More images and information on *Macrochaetus subquadratus*: [Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-Macrochaetus subquadratus](#)



Fig. 1 a-d: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. L = 163 μ m. A freely swimming specimen from dorsal (a-c) and ventral (d). Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 2 a-b: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. L = 163 μ m. Two focal planes of the dorsal

side from the slightly squashed specimen as shown in fig. 1 a-d. Note the lateral antennae on the left and right side (LLA, RLA). Obj. 60 X.

Macrochaetus subquadratus
Obj. 60 X



Fig. 3: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. The 14 dorsal spines (1-14) in a squashed specimen. DA = dorsal antenna, ES = eyespot, LLA = left lateral antenna, RLA = right lateral antenna. Obj. 60 X.



Fig. 4: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. The pattern of the ventral side in a squashed specimen. Obj. 60 X.



Fig. 5: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. The same squashed specimen as shown in fig. 4 but with the focal plane on the dorsal side (from ventral). The 14 dorsal spines are visible (1-14). Obj. 60 X.

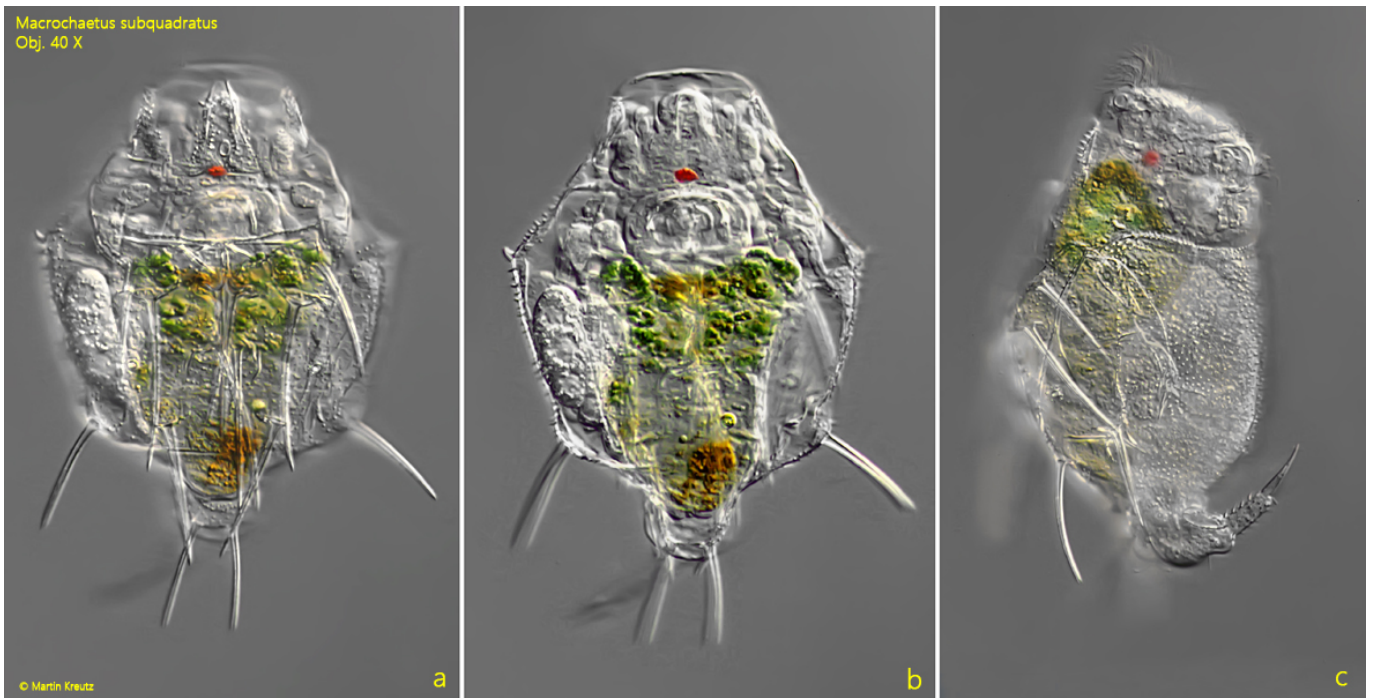


Fig. 6 a-c: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. L = 176 μ m. A slightly squashed second specimen from dorsal (a-b) and from lateral (c). Obj. 40 X.

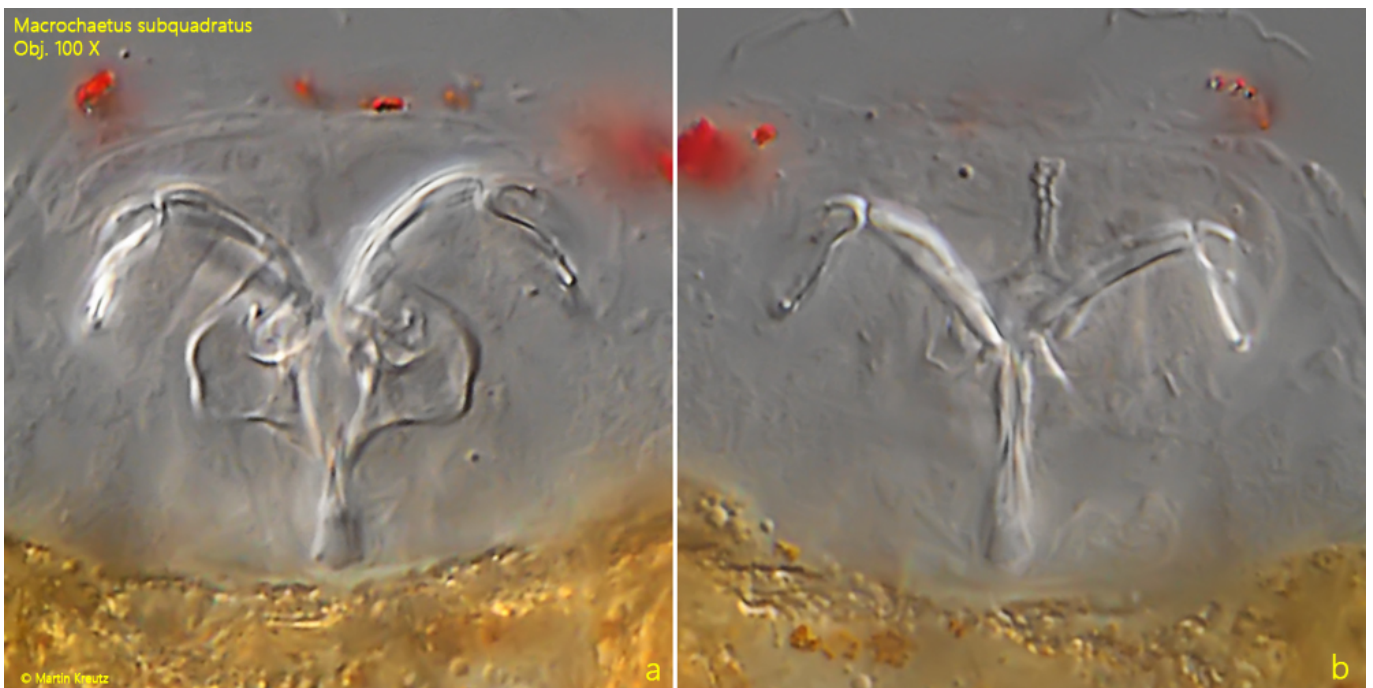


Fig. 7 a-b: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. Two focal planes of the trophi in a strongly squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.