Macrochaetus subquadratus

Perty, 1850

Most likely ID: n.a.

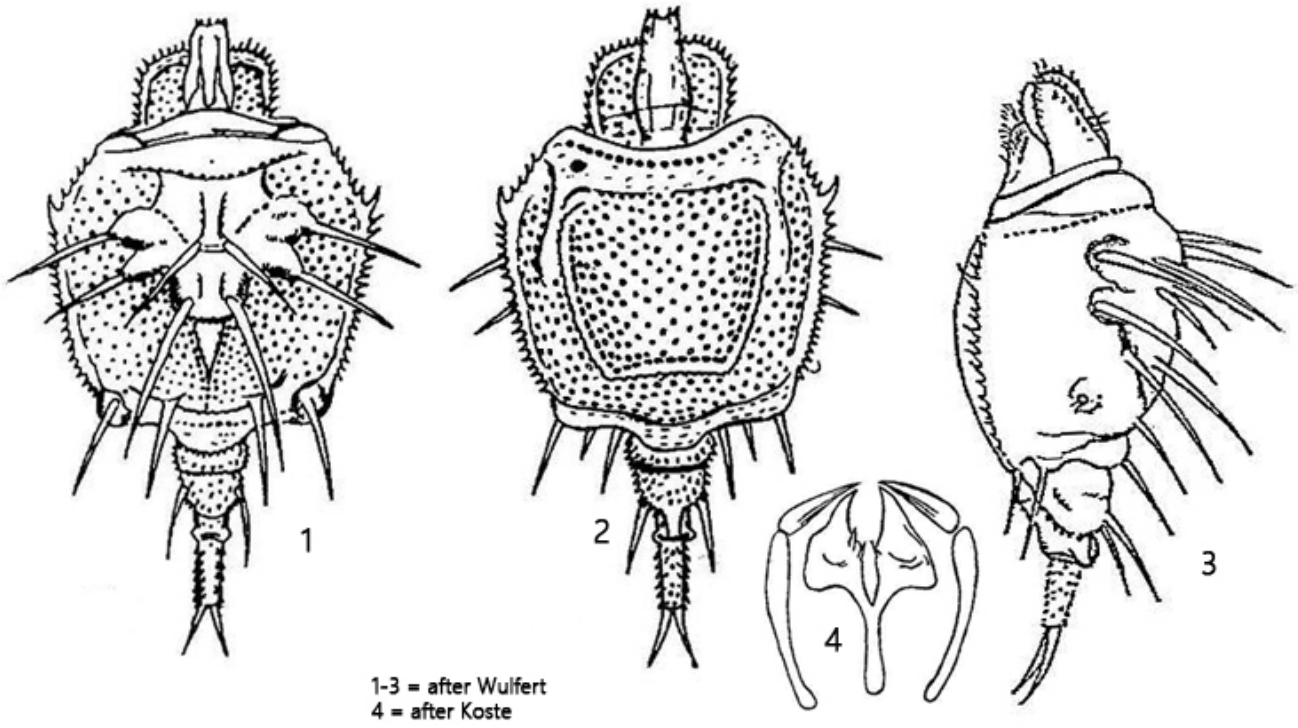
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: 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, where the species is rare and I only find specimens sporadically. I usually find 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. 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.

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. In the Simmelried I have so far only found *Macrochaetus subquadratus*, which also 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 µm. A freely swimming specimen from dorsal (a-c) and ventral (d). Obj. 40 X.

Fig. 2 a-b: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. L = 163 µm. 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
ES
DA
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
LLA
RLA
9
10
11
12
13
14
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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.

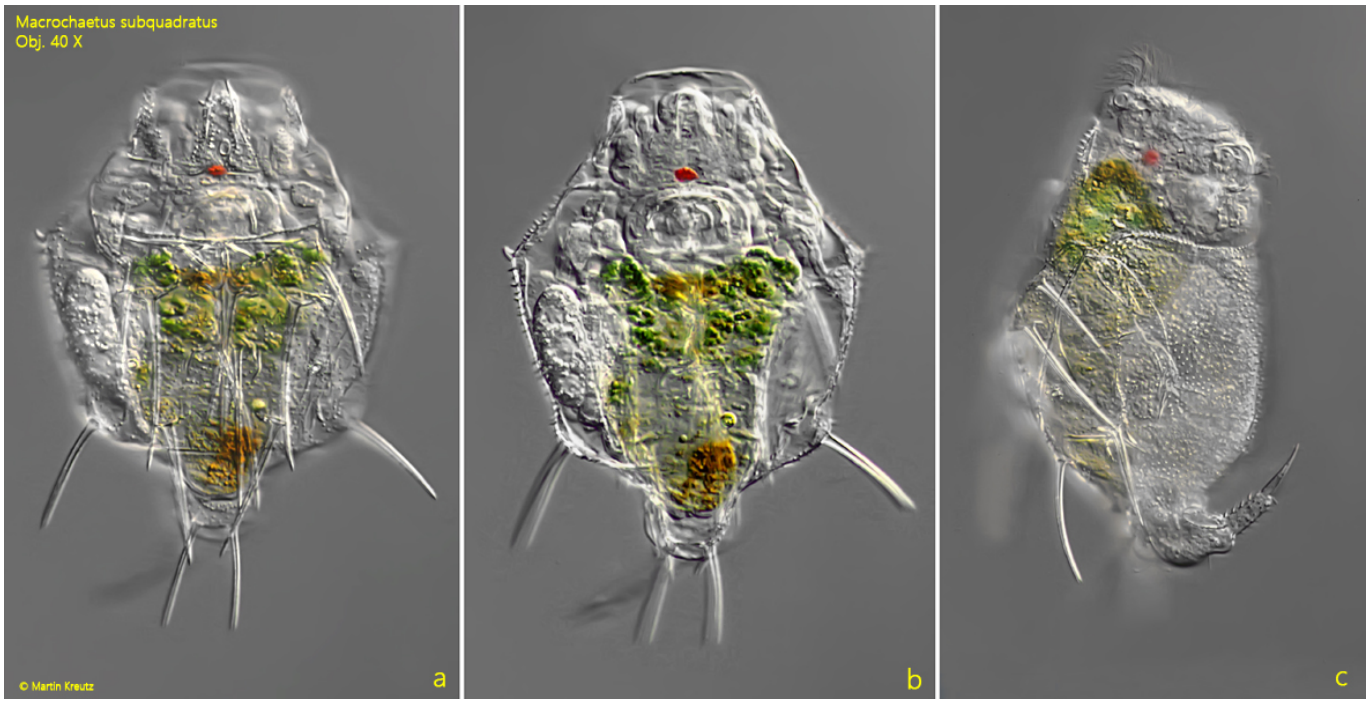

Fig. 4 a-c: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. L = 176 µm. A slightyl squashed second specimen from dorsal (a-b) and from lateral (c). Obj. 40 X.

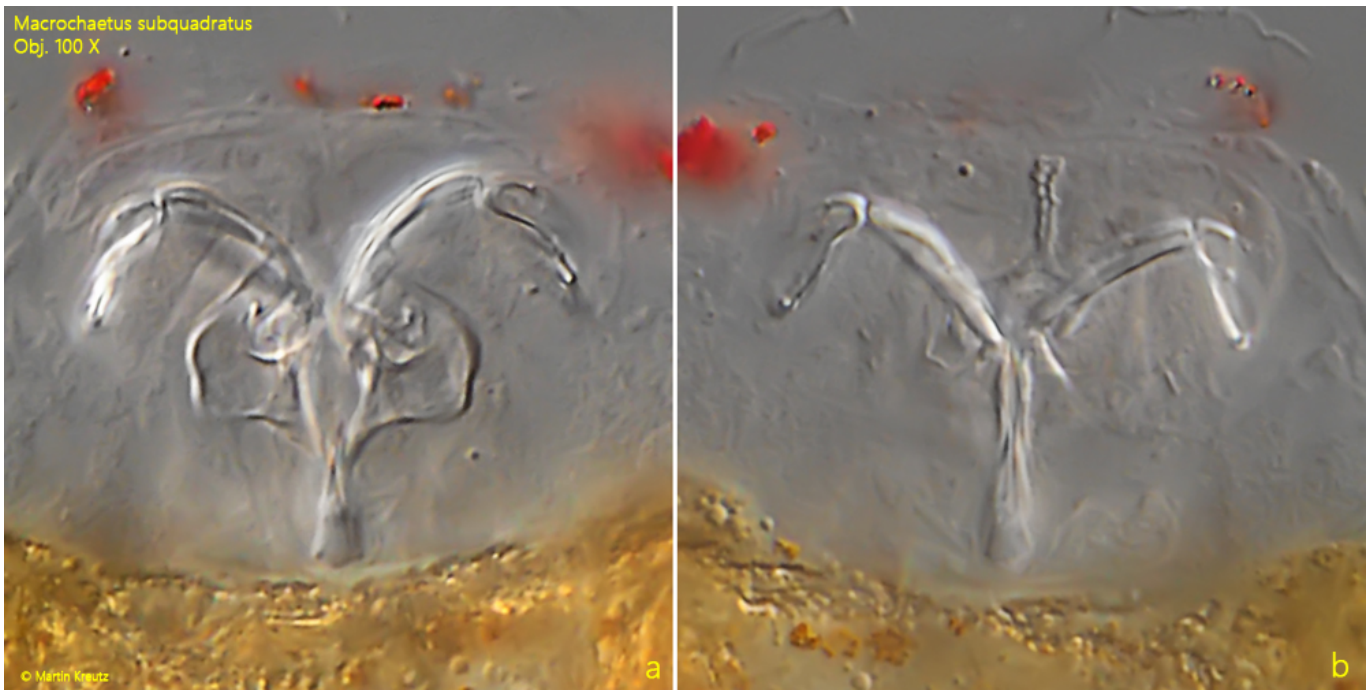

Fig. 5 a-b: *Macrochaetus subquadratus*. Two focal planes of the trophi in a strongly squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.