Menoidium gibbum Skuja, 1939

Most likely ID: n.a.

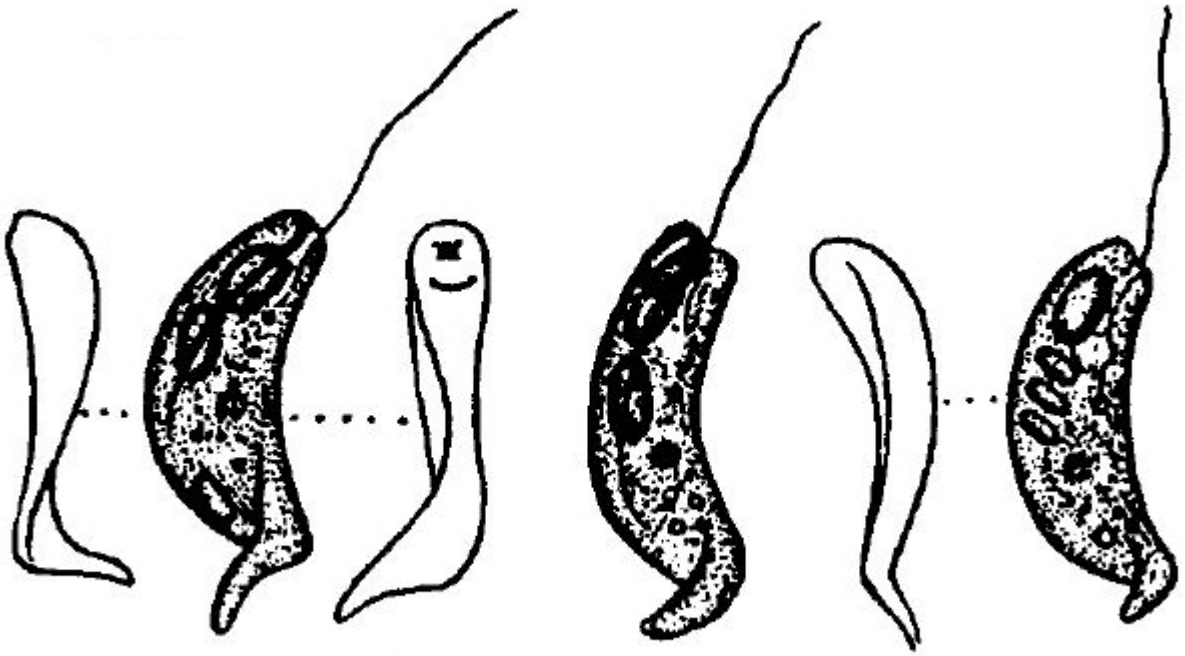
Synonym: *Rhabdomonas gibba*, *Rhabdomonas spiralis*

Sampling location: Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Menoidium gibbum*

Diagnosis:

- cells curved, laterally compressed, slightly spirally twisted
- ventrally with concave indentation
- posterior end tapered and bent to the right
- length 14–16 µm
- flagellum almost body length
- nucleus in mid-body with central nucleolus
- paramylon granules rod-shaped, arranged at the dorsal side
- pellicle with dense longitudinal striation
- fast swimming, helically rotating



after Skuja

Menoidium gibbum

I found only one specimen of *Menoidium gibbum* in Janur 2008 in Simmelried. After that I have not registered any more finds.

Menoidium gibbum has a very characteristic shape because of its posterior end is bent to the right (s. fig. 1 a), which practically excludes a confusion with other species. In addition, the ventral side is concavely indented (s. fig. 1 c). My specimen was 20 µm long and thus slightly longer than indicated by Skuja. Skuja found *Menoidium gibbum* mostly in spring after snowmelt. My finding in January could be an indication that *Menoidium gibbum* is a psychrophilous species.

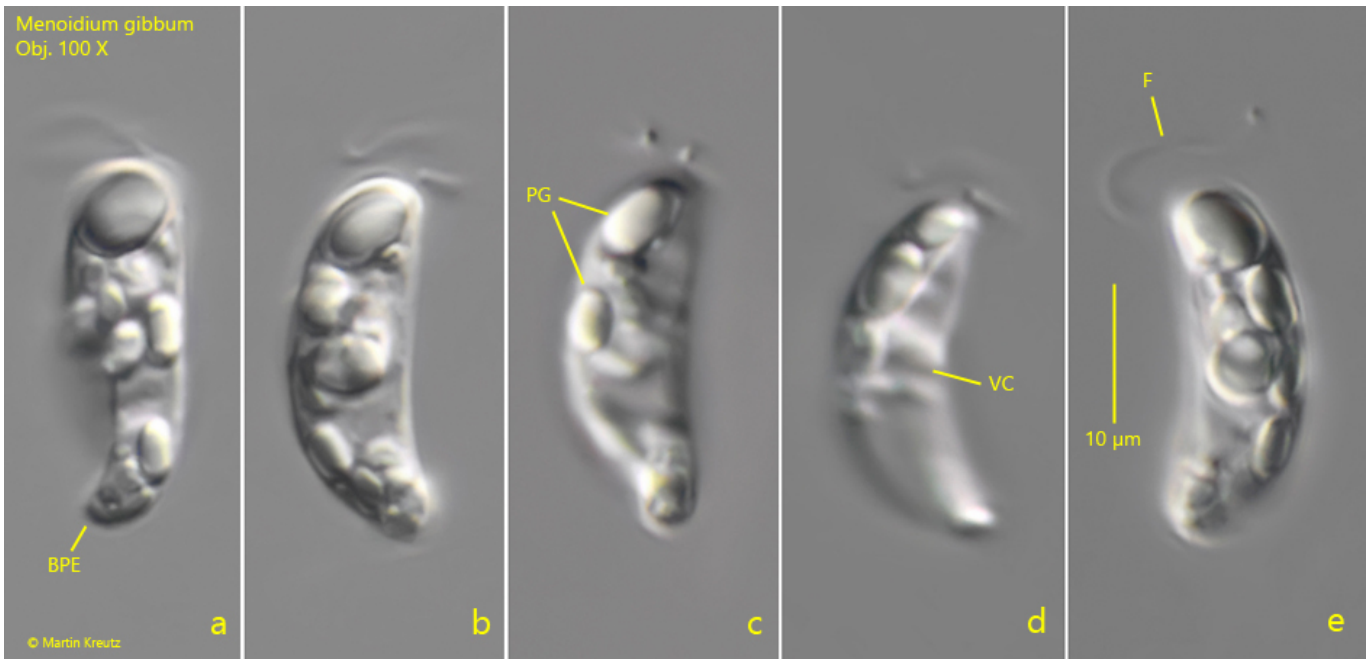


Fig. 1 a-e: *Menoidium gibbum*. L = 20 µm. A freely swimming specimen from ventral (a, c, d), from left (b) and from right (e). Note the bent posterior end (BPE) and the ventral concave indentation (VC). F = flagellum, PG = paramylon grains. Obj. 100 X.