

***Metopus extentus* (Kahl, 1926)**

**Most likely ID:** n.a.

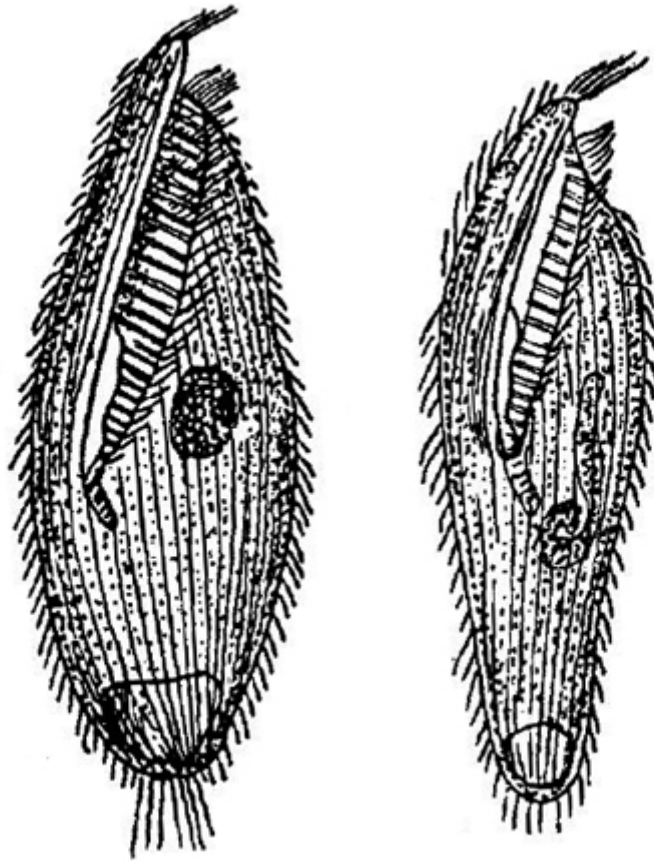
**Synonym:** n.a.

**Sampling location:** [Purren pond](#)

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Metopus extentus](#)

**Diagnosis:**

- body slender oval, dorso-ventrally little flattened
- length about 160 µm
- ectoplasm brownish granular
- perizonal cilia long
- adoral zone runs obliquely over ventral side
- membranelles of adoral zone high and densely arranged
- mouth opening in posterior third
- macronucleus rod-shaped, either entire or curled at end
- contractile vacuole terminal



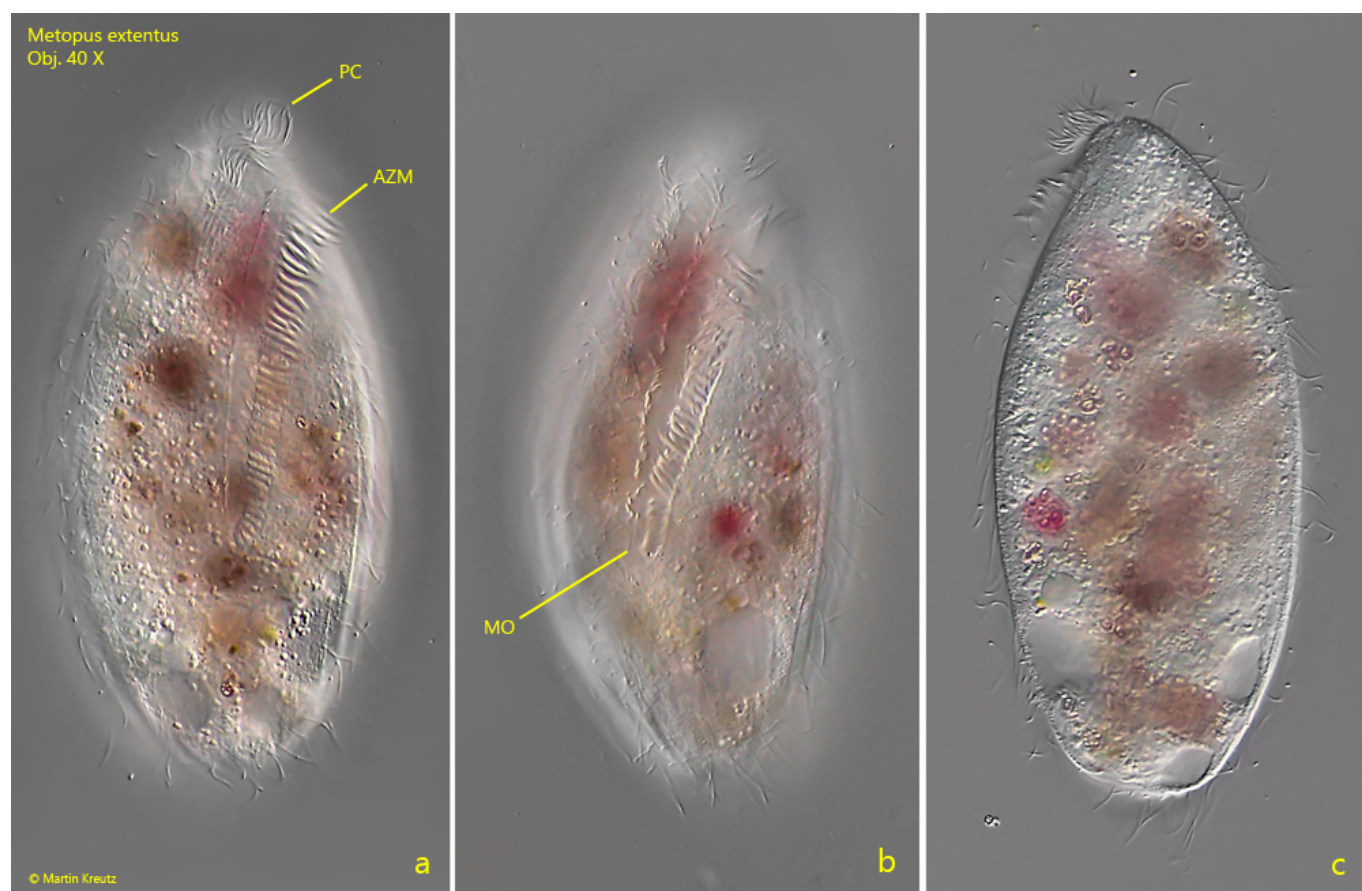
after Kahl

### Metopus extentus

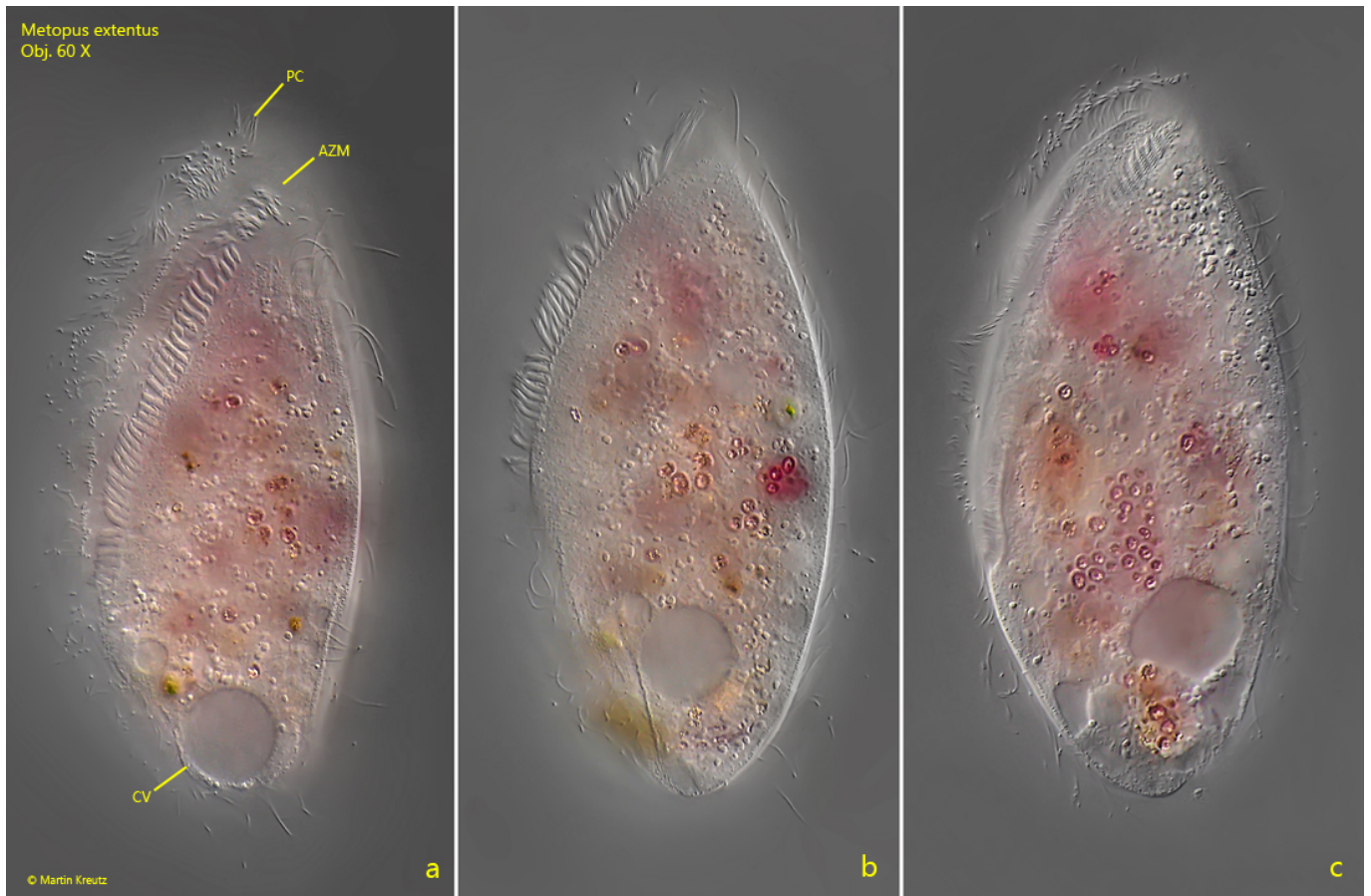
So far I could find only one specimen of *Metopus extentus* in February 2022 in the [Purren pond](#). This fits the description of Kahl, who describes the species as “rare” which can be found in winter and spring.

*Metopus extentus* is easily recognized by its stately size of about 160  $\mu\text{m}$  (my specimen was 143  $\mu\text{m}$  long) and the adoral zone extending obliquely across the ventral side (s. figs. 1 a and 1b). The mouth opening is below the middle of the cell, at the border of the posterior third. I could not observe the brown granules in the ectoplasm described by Kahl, although the specimen appeared brownish at lower magnification (s. figs. 1 a-c). However, this was due to the contents of the food vacuoles. Unfortunately, my specimen was completely filled with food vacuoles containing mainly rhodobacteria in various stages of digestion. Thus, I could only clearly recognize the rod-shaped macronucleus (s. fig. 3b), which, according to Kahl, should sometimes be completely curled up or just one end. I could not clearly identify the micronucleus, since it could also be the optical section through a rolled-up end of the macronucleus (s. fig. 3 b).

In the literature and on the internet I often found the name “*Metopus extensus*”. However, Kahl has called this species *Metopus extentus*. I suspect a transcription error behind it.

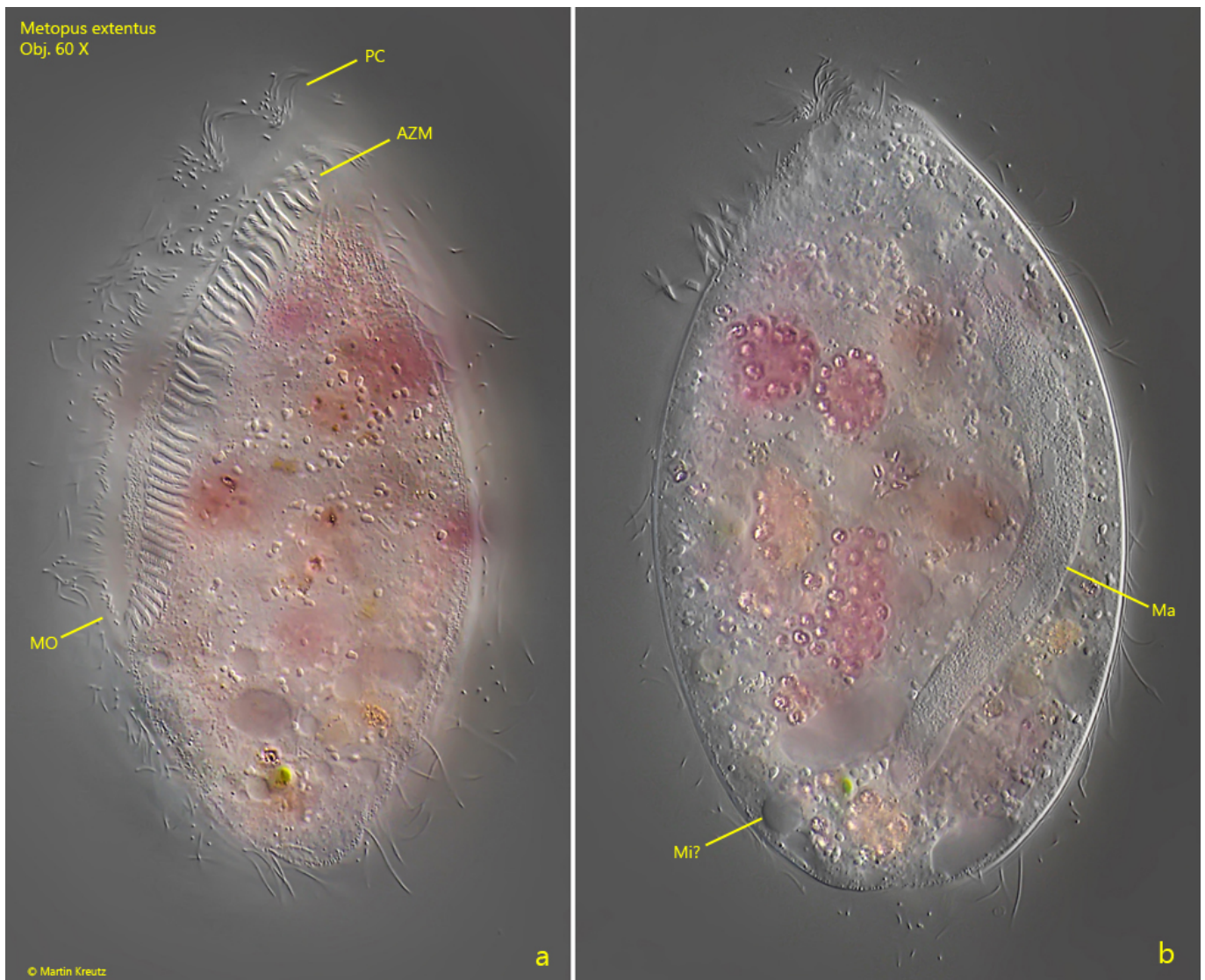


**Fig. 1 a-c:** *Metopus extentus*. L = 143  $\mu$ m. A freely swimming specimen from ventral (a, b) and from left (c). AZM = adoral zone of membranelles, MO = mouth opening, PC = perizonal cilia. Obj. 40 X.



**Fig. 2 a-c:** *Metopus extentus*. L = 143  $\mu$ m. The same specimen shown in fig. 1 a-c from ventral (a) and from left (b, c). AZM = adoral zone of membranelles, CV = contractile vacuole, PC = perizoneal cilia. Obj. 60 X.





**Fig. 3 a-b:** *Metopus extentus*. L = 143  $\mu$ m. Focal plane on the adoral zone (a) and on the rod-shaped macronucleus (b) of the slightly squashed specimen shown in fig. 1 a-c. Near the posterior end likely the micronucleus (Mi?) is visible or the curled end of the macronucleus. AZM = adoral zone of membranelles, Ma = macronucleus, MO = mouth opening, PC = perizonal cilia. Obj. 60 X.