Micrasterias apiculata

Meneghini ex Ralfs, 1848

Most likely ID: n.a.

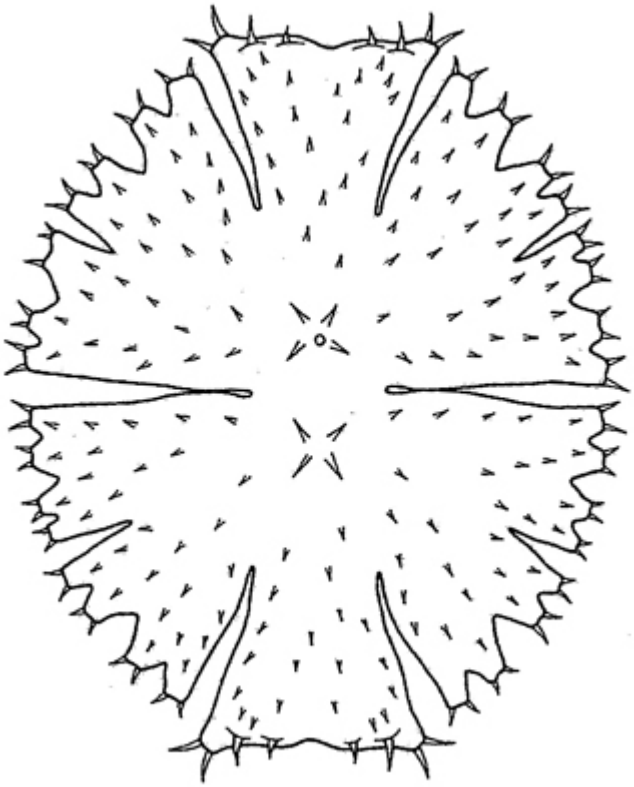
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Holzöster See (Austria), Schwemm (Austria)

Phylogenetic tree: *Micrasterias apiculata*

Diagnosis:

- cells broad ellipsoid, sinus widened towards margin
- length 120–300 µm
- semi-cells 5 lobed
- lobes deeply contricted
- polar lobes longer than lateral lobes
- all lobed covered with short, conical spines



Micrasterias apiculata

I found *Micrasterias apiculata* in 1995 in the Holzöster See (Austria) and then again in 2003 and 2025 in the Schwemm Moor (Austria). In my sampling sites in the region of Lake Constance I have not yet been able to find this species.

Micrasterias apiculata is somewhat similar in outline to *Micrasterias papillifera*. However, *Micrasterias apiculata* has many short spines distributed over the entire surface of the lobes (s. figs. 2 and 4), whereas *Micrasterias papillifera* has them exclusively in rows along the incisions between the lobes.

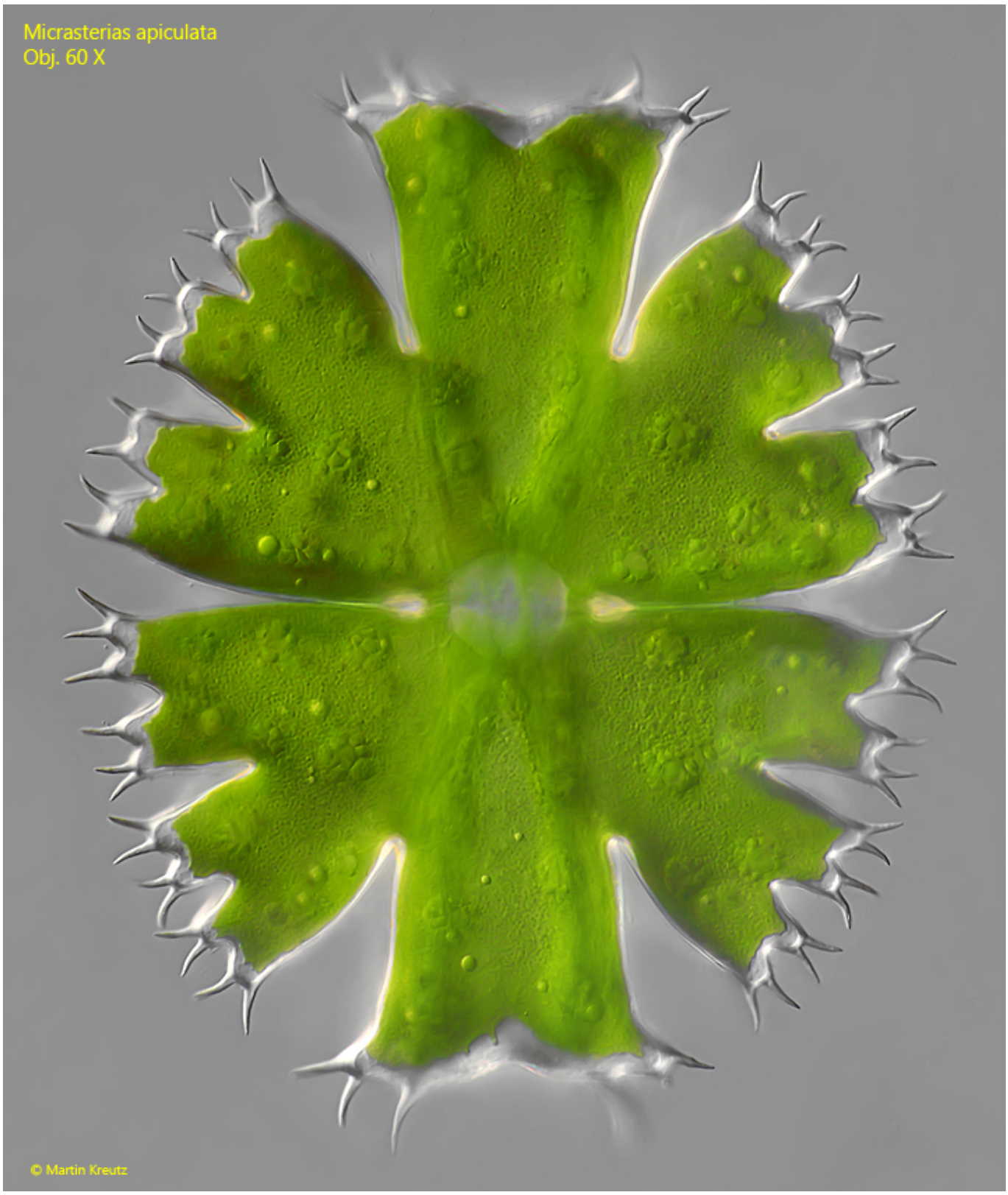


Fig. 1: *Micrasterias apiculata*. L = 230 µm. A specimen found in July 2025 in the Schwemm Moor. Obj. 60 X.

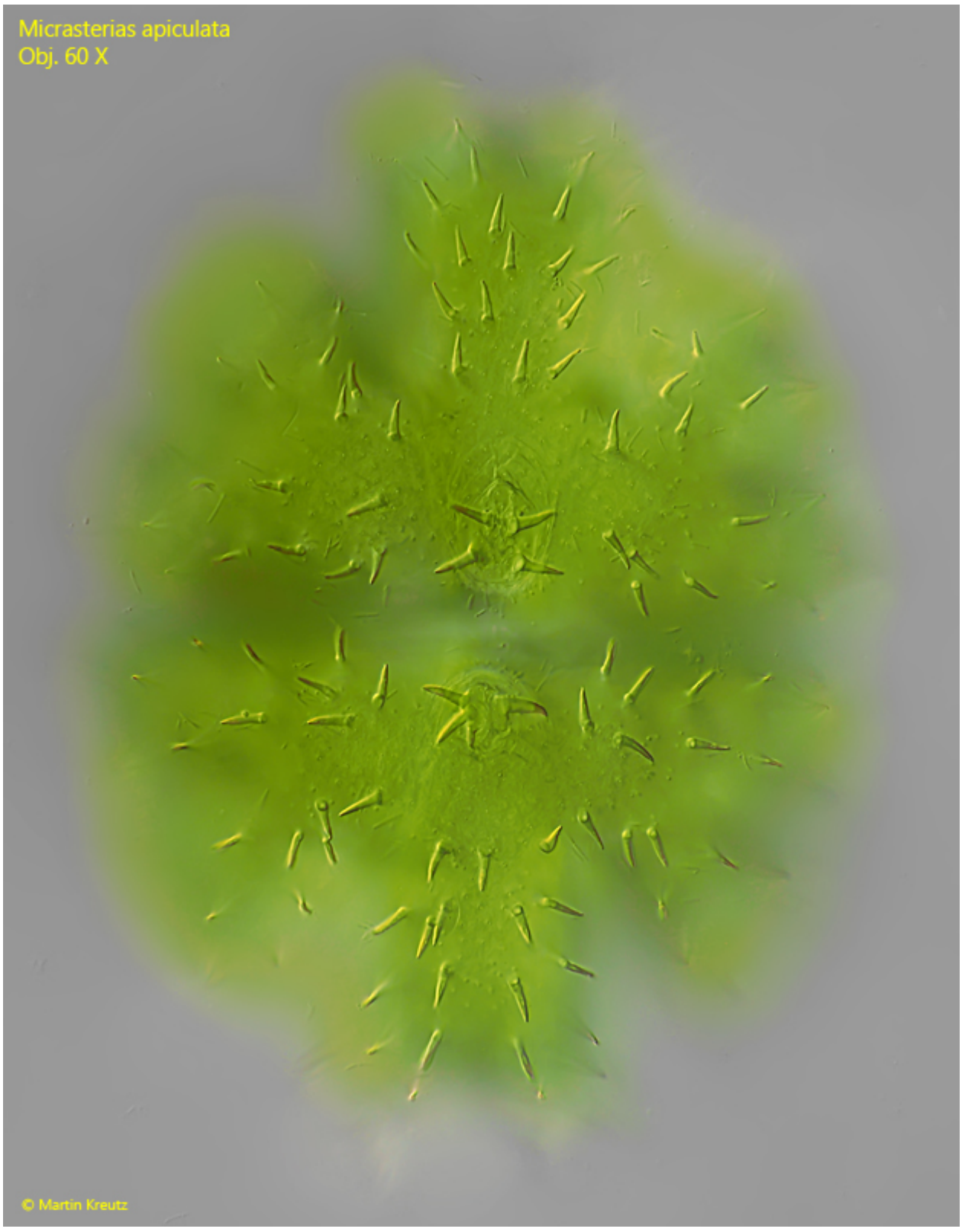


Fig. 2: *Micrasterias apiculata*. L = 230 µm. The same specimen as shown in fig. 1 with focal plane on the spines covering the semi-cells. Obj. 60 X.

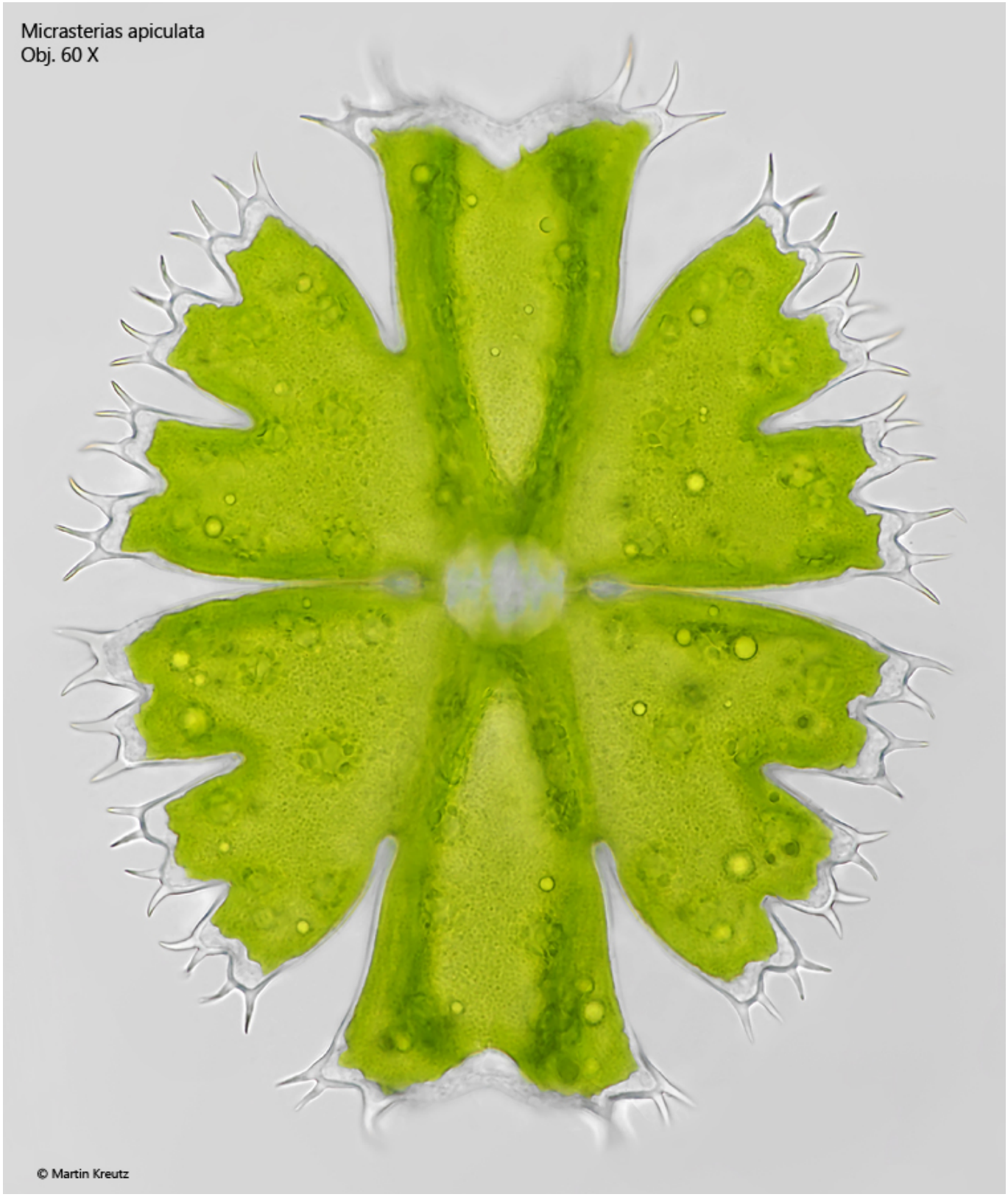


Fig. 3: *Micrasterias apiculata*. L = 230 µm. The same specimen as shown in fig. 1 in brightfiled illumination. Obj. 60 X.

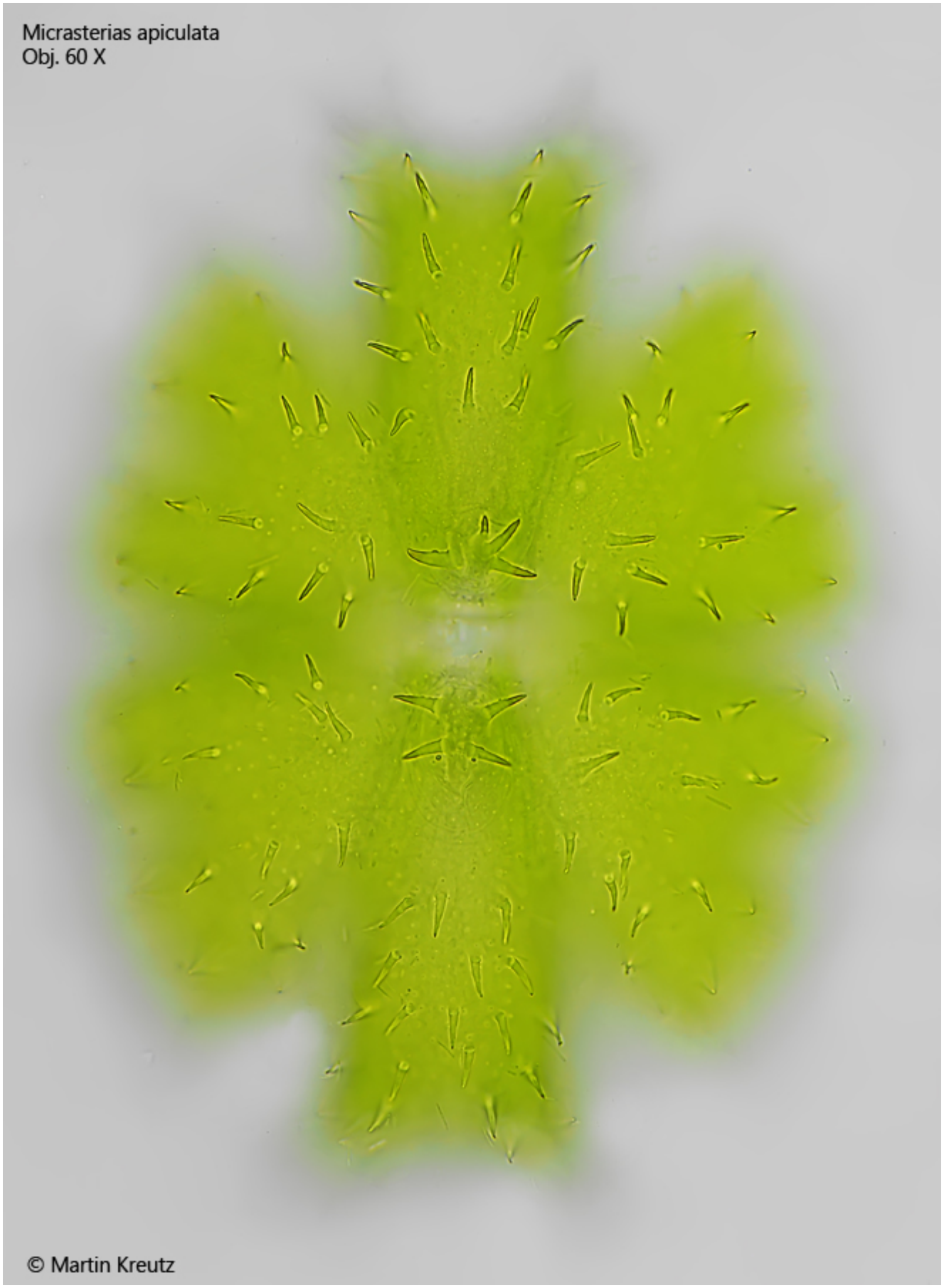


Fig. 4: *Micrasterias apiculata*. L = 230 µm. The same specimen as shown in fig. 1 in brightfield illumination with focal plane on the spines covering the semi-cells. Obj.

60 X.

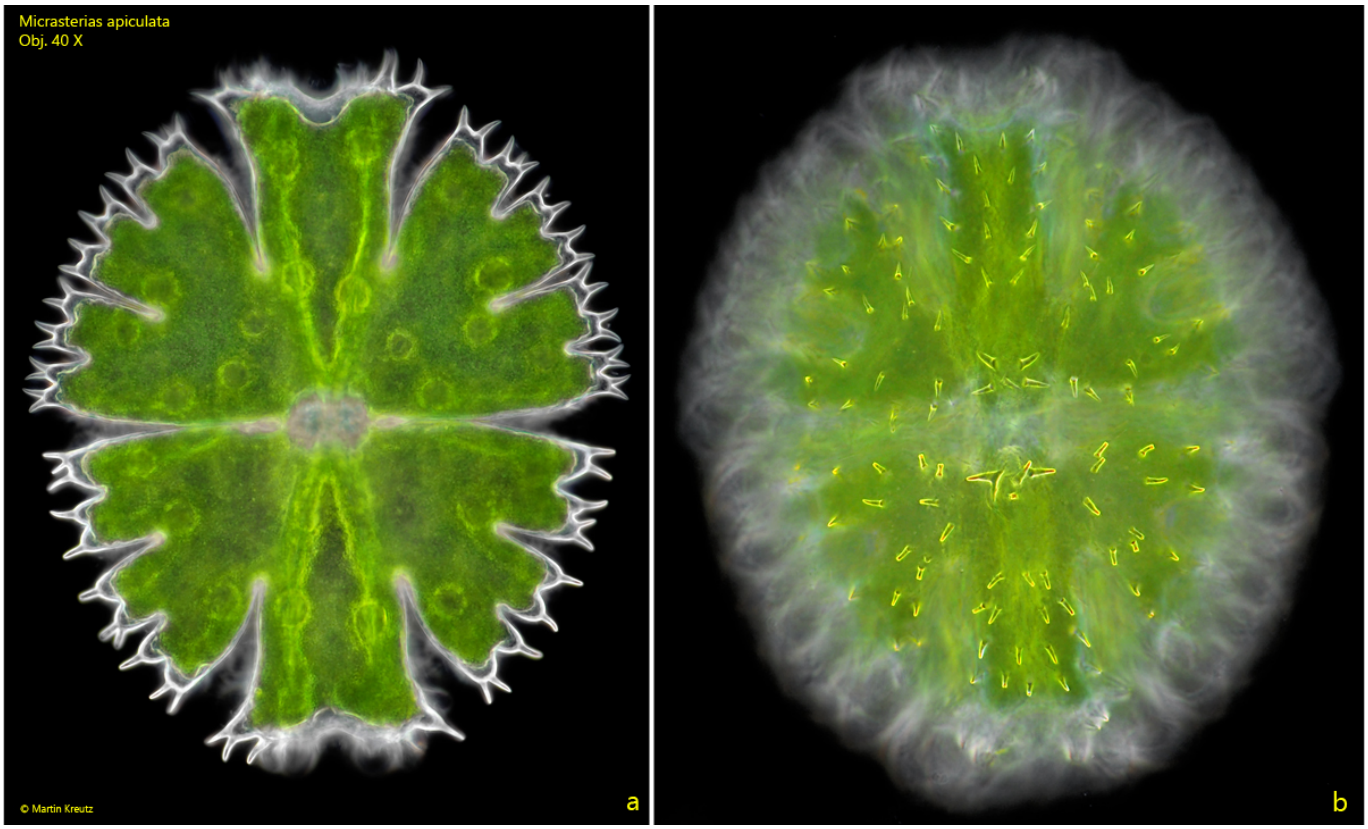


Fig. 5 a-b: *Micrasterias apiculata*. L = 230 µm. A second specimen in darkfield illumination. Obj. 40 X.