

***Microcodon clavus* Ehrenberg, 1830**

Most likely ID: n.a.

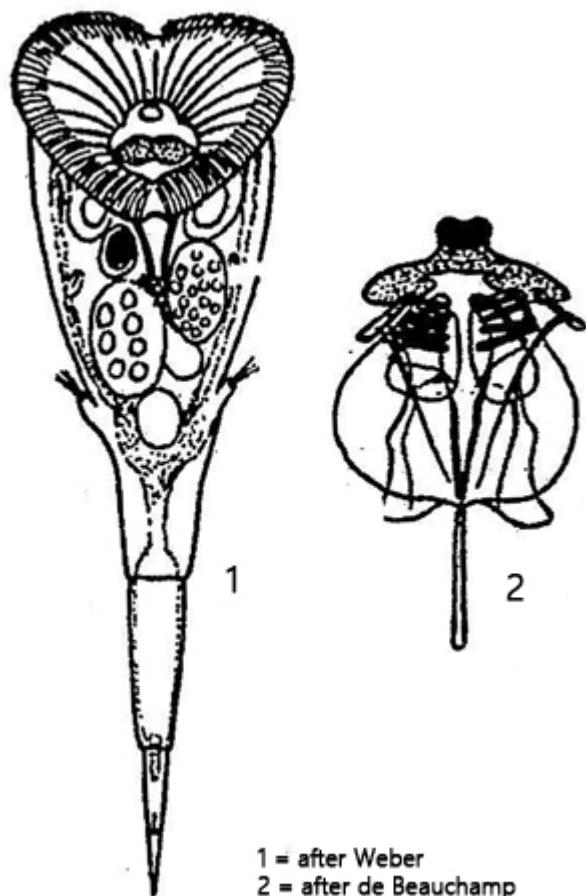
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Ulmisried](#), [Pond of the convent Hegne](#), [Mühlhalden pond](#), [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [*Microcodon clavus*](#)

Diagnosis:

- body conical with strongly arched back
- corona heart-shaped
- length 170–204 µm
- epipharynx red or violet
- mastax colored yellowish
- cerebral ganglion large
- uncus with 5-6 teeth
- one eyespot (adjacent to cerebral ganglion)
- foot long and slender
- toes conical, slightly curved



Microcodon clavus

Microcodon clavus is a very common rotifer in my samples, but it never occurs in masses. In the samples, the specimens gather near the surface and are easy to collect.

Microcodon clavus is immediately recognizable not only by its trumpet-shaped body, but especially by its striking red and purple-coloured epipharynx. The epipharynx sits on a yellow-colored mastax. The stomach is usually yellowish or orange in color. This coloration clearly sets it apart from other rotifers. It is not known why the epipharynx is so strikingly red and purple in color.

Microcodon clavus can swim very fast, but can also stand in one place at times. In doing so, an adhesive thread is formed on which it “trundles”. However, I have never been able to recognize this adhesive thread.

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

Microcodon clavus

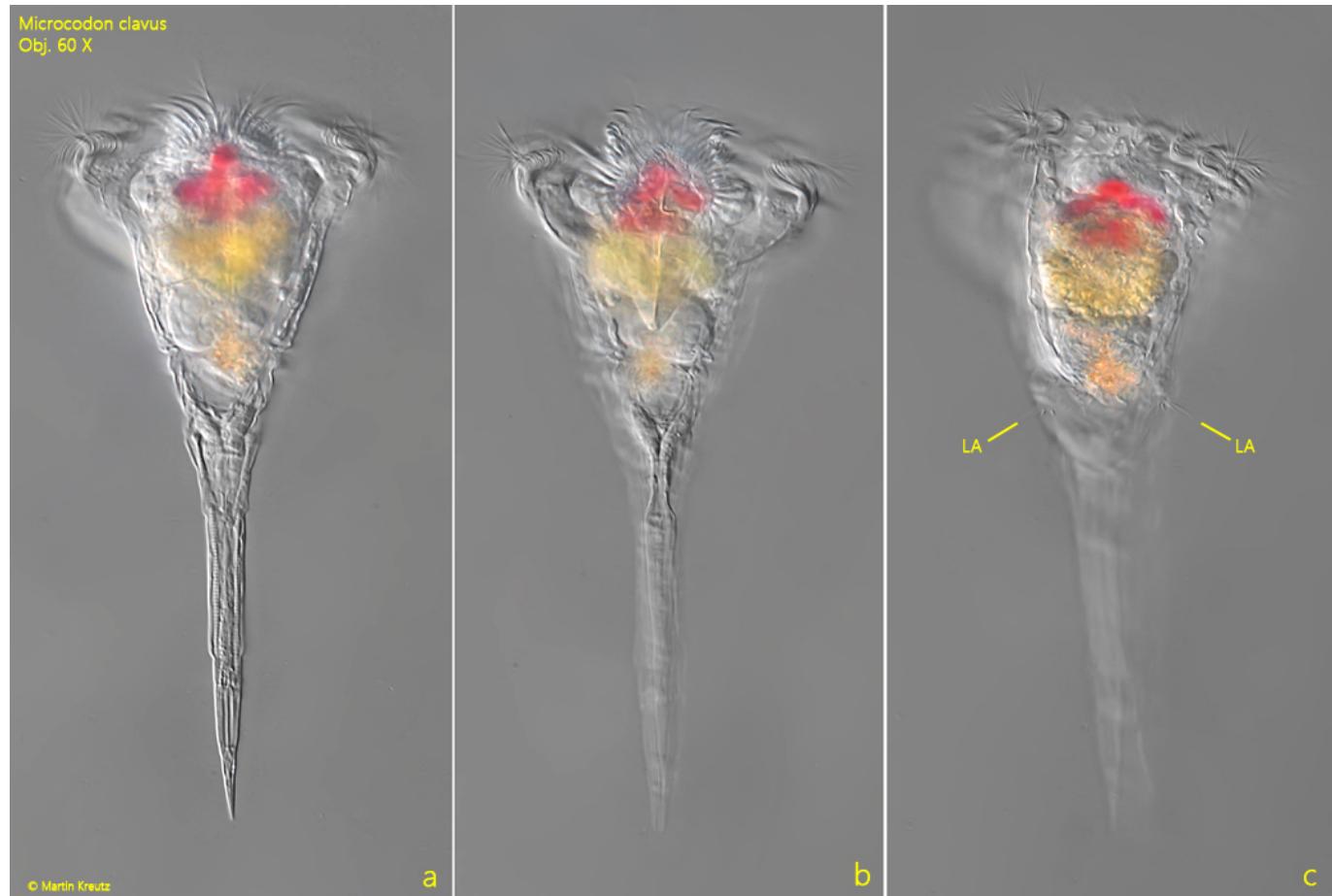


Fig. 1 a-c: *Microcodon clavus*. L = 184 μ m. A freely swimming specimen from dorsal. Obj. 60 X.

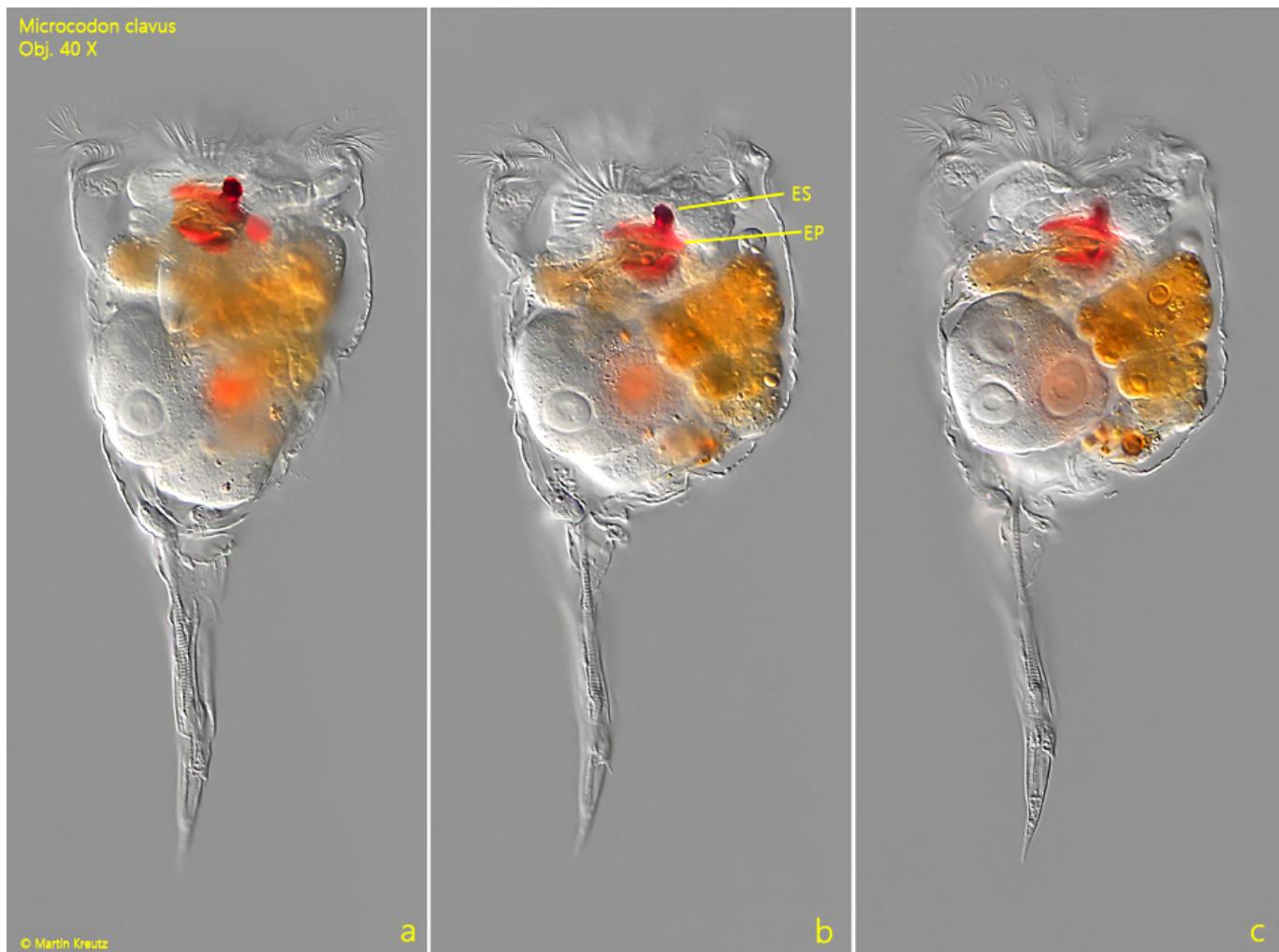


Fig. 2 a-c: *Microcodon clavus*. L = 210 µm. A slightly squashed specimen from dorsal (a) and from left (b, c). Note the apical eyespot (ES) and the red and pink colored epipharynx (EP). Obj. 40 X.

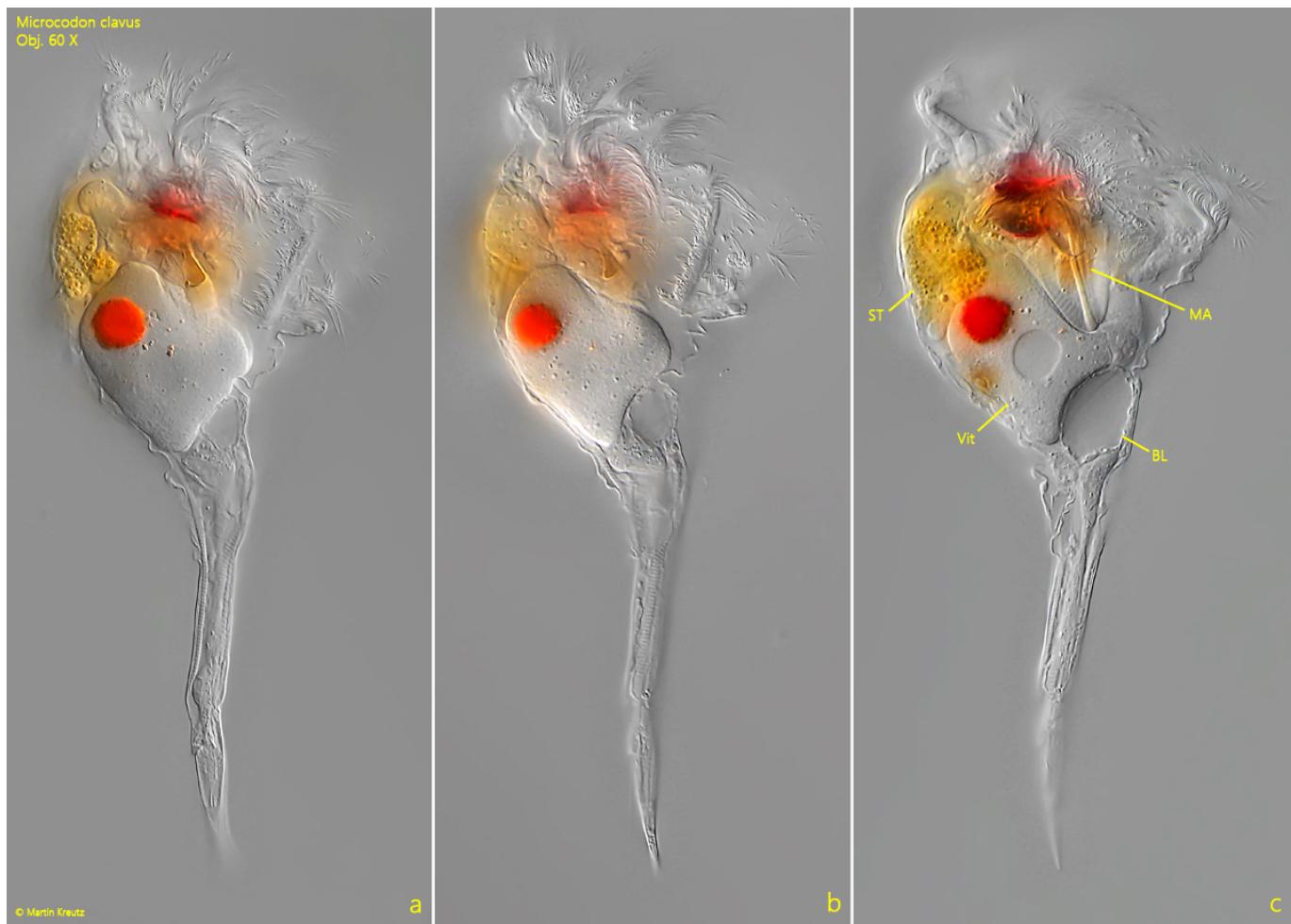


Fig. 3 a-c: *Microcodon clavus*. L = 200 μ m. A second slightly squashed specimen from right. BL = bladder, MA = mastax, ST = stomach, Vit = vitellarium. Obj. 60 X.

Microcodon clavus
Obj. 60 X



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Fig. 4: *Microcodon clavus*. L = 194 μ m. A slightly squashed specimen from left with the visible dorsal antenna (DA). Obj. 60 X.

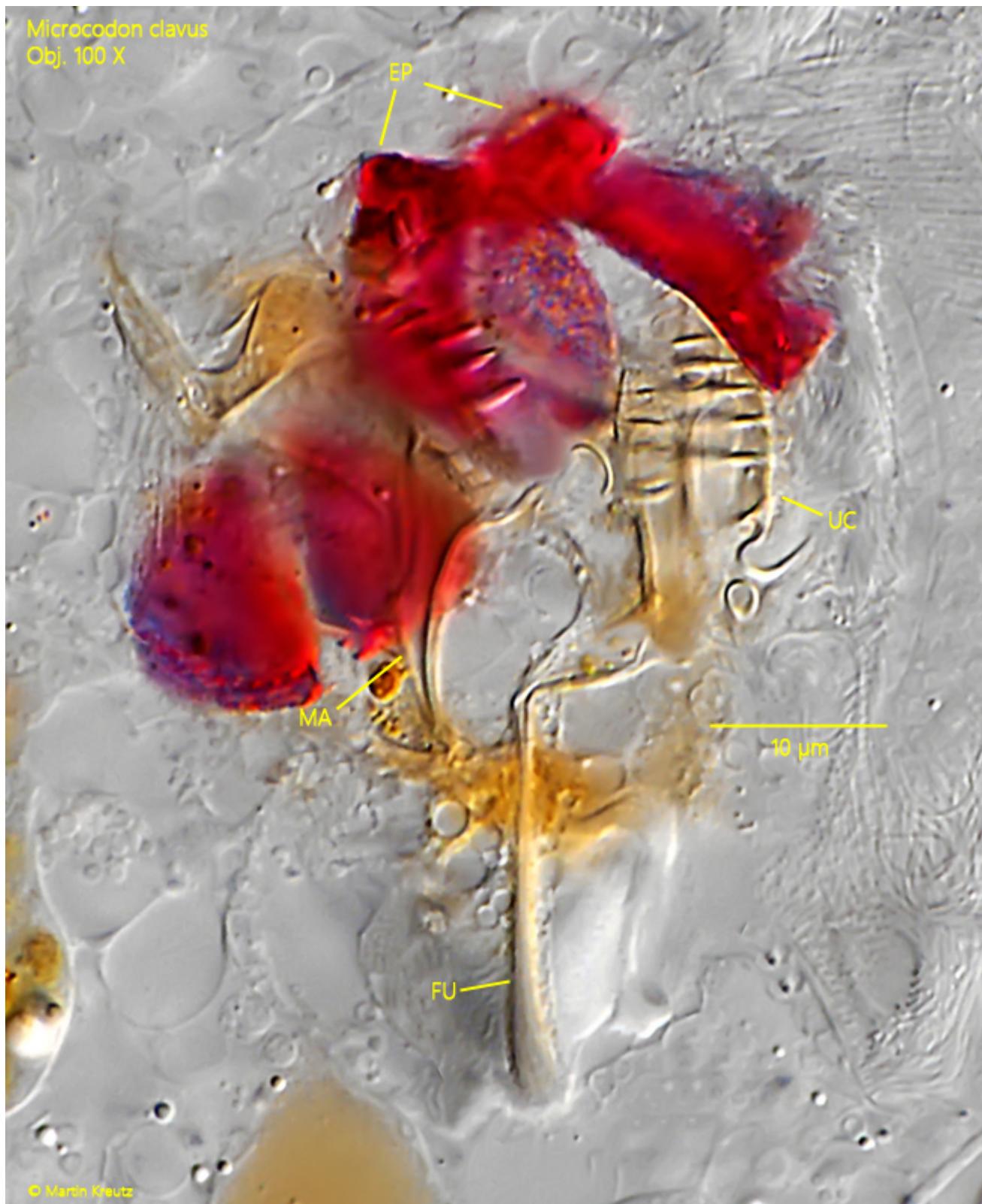


Fig. 5: *Microcodon clavus*. The trophi and the red/pink colored epipharynx (EP) in a strongly squashed specimen. FU = fulcrum, UC = uncus. Obj. 100 X.