

Nusuttodinium aeruginosum
(Stein) Takano & Horiguchi, 2014

Most likely ID: n.a.

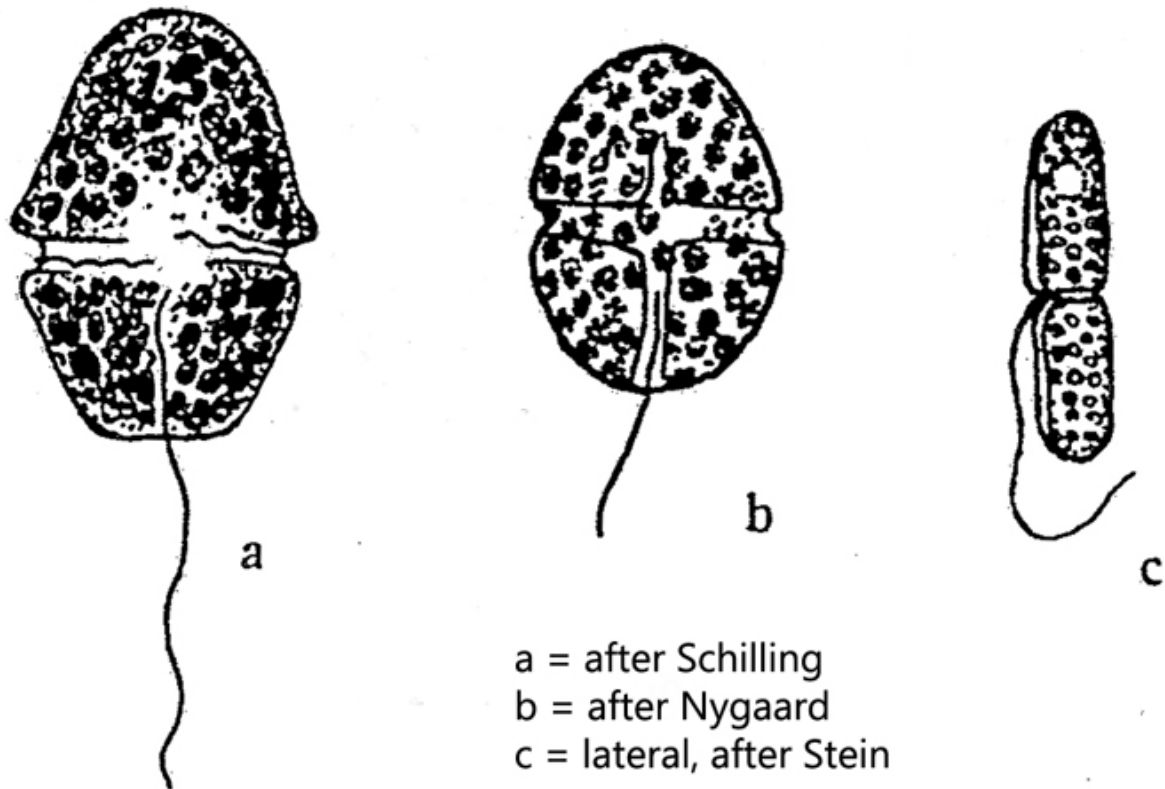
Synonym: *Gymnodinium aeruginosum*

Sampling location: [Ulmisried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Nusuttodinium aeruginosum](#)

Diagnosis:

- length 13 – 44 µm
- body ovoid, tear-shaped or squarish
- epicone (anterior half) longer than hypocone (posterior half)
- eyespot sometimes present
- chloroplasts numerous, blue-green



Nusuttodinium aeruginosum

I could detect *Nusuttodinium aeruginosum* (previously *Gymnodinium aeruginosum*) up to now exclusively in Ulmisried. The species can be identified easily by the blue-green color. In fact, *Nusuttodinium aeruginosum* is a colorless species. The chloroplasts, which give the cell its blue-green coloration, were "stolen" from photosynthetic prey organisms. Such stolen chloroplasts are also called kleptoplasts. It could be proved that *Nusuttodinium aeruginosum* obtains these kleptoplasts from *Chroomonas*. The cells of the prey organisms are completely digested except for the chloroplasts. These are then incorporated into the peripheral cell layer and kept alive.

In the literature, the species is described without an eyespot. I could detect an eyespot in some specimens (s. Fig. 1 and Fig. 5). Thus, the species seems to be quite variable not only with respect to the cell shape.

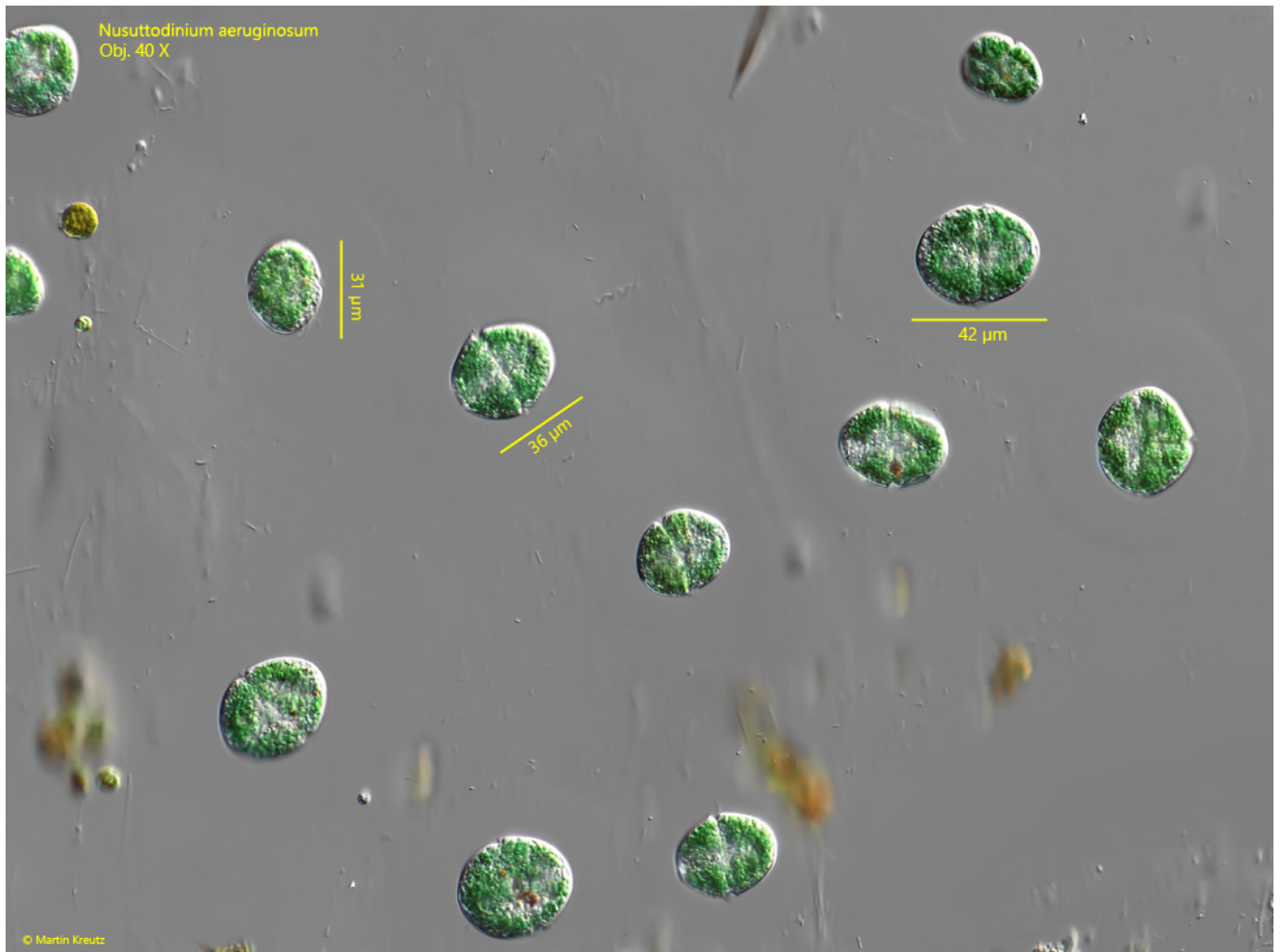


Fig. 1: *Nusuttodinium aeruginosum*. Overview of a mass occurrence. Note the two cells with an eye spot. Obj. 40 X.

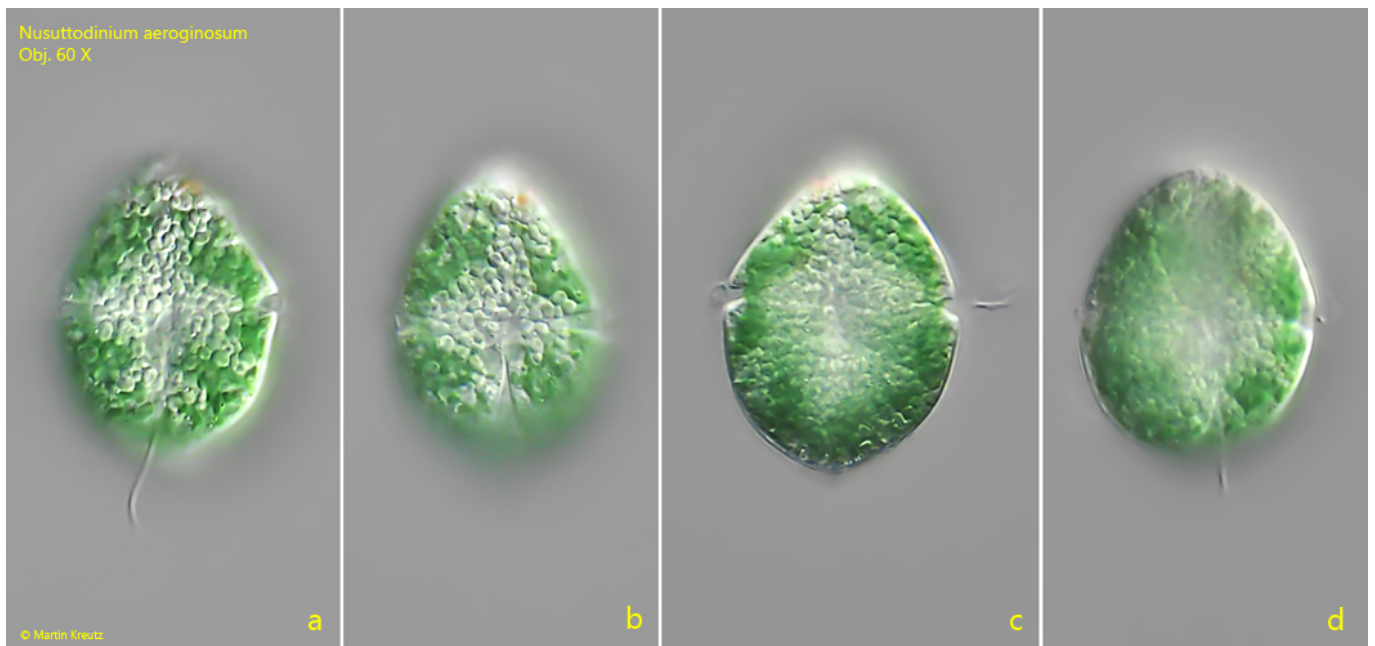


Fig. 2 a-d: *Nusuttodinium aeruginosum*. L = 37 µm. Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen from ventral. Obj. 60 X.

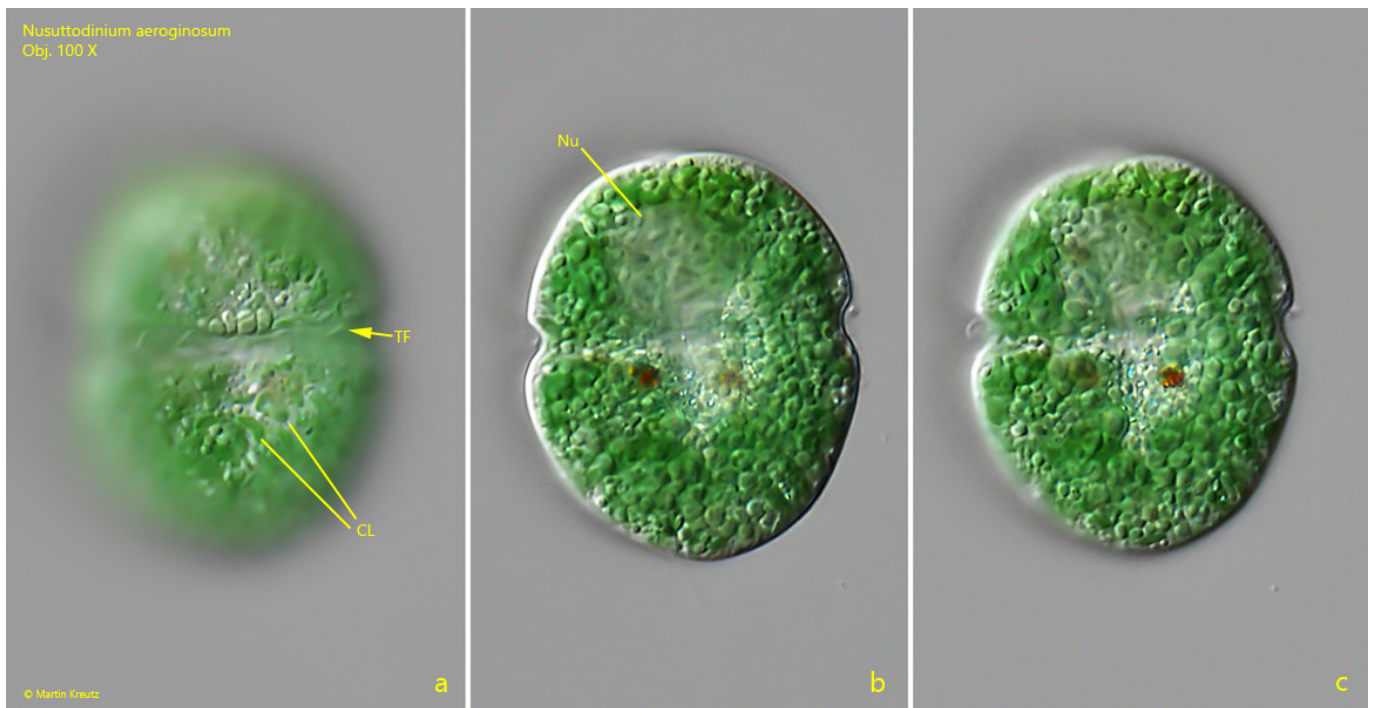


Fig. 3 a-c: *Nusuttodinium aeruginosum*. L = 38 μ m. A slightly squashed specimen from dorsal. CL = cleptoplasts, NU = nucleus, TF = transversal flagellum. Obj. 100 X.

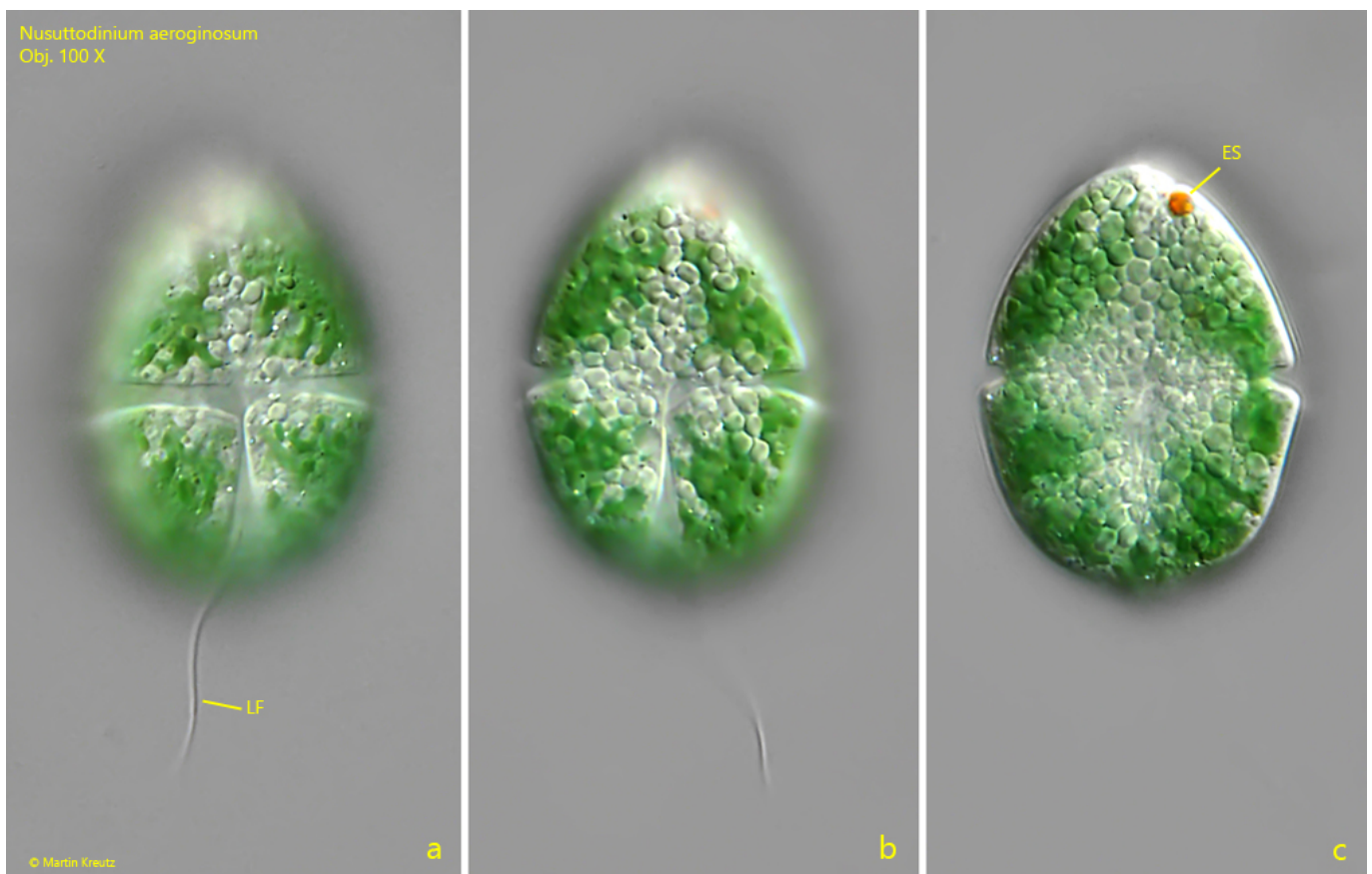


Fig. 4 a-c: *Nusuttodinium aeruginosum*. L = 36 μ m. A slightly squashed specimen from ventral. ES = eyespot, LF = longitudinal flagellum. Obj. 100 X.