

***Paraurotricha discolor***

**(Kahl, 1930) Foissner, 1983**

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

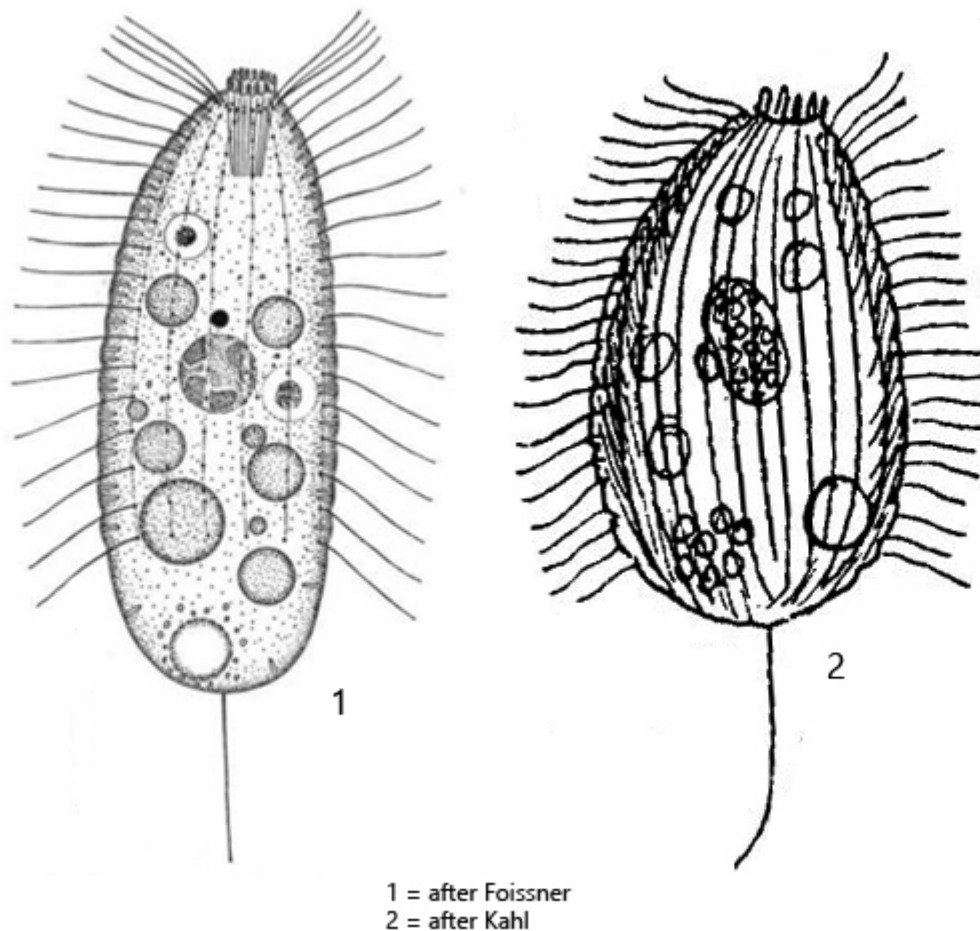
**Synonym:** *Urotricha discolor*

**Sampling location:** [Simmelried](#)

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Paraurotricha discolor](#)

**Diagnosis:**

- body ovoid or elongated oval, slightly asymmetric, metabol
- length 25-50 µm (commonly 30-40 µm)
- 12-14 longitudinal rows of cilia
- spindle-shaped extrusomes, about 0.5 µm long
- cytopharynx apical, slightly sub-polar
- globular macronucleus central
- one spherical micronucleus adjacent to macronucleus
- contractile vacuole terminal and sub-polar
- one caudal cilium



*Paraurotricha discolor*

*Paraurotricha discolor* was first described by Kahl (1930) as *Urotricha discolor*. In 1983 Foissner published a redescription of the species and transferred it to the newly created genus *Paraurotricha* on the basis of morphological studies.

I have so far only found *Paraurotricha discolor* in the [Simmelried](#). However, as the species is common, I may have overlooked it in my other sampling sites. In contrast to representatives of the genus *Urotricha*, the body of *Paraurotricha discolor* is very flexible and the ciliate burrows in detritus. The size is given by Foissner as 30–40  $\mu\text{m}$  and by Kahl as 40–50  $\mu\text{m}$ . However, Kahl mentions he having found specimens with a length of 25  $\mu\text{m}$ . The size seems to be quite variable. The cilia stand in small depressions, which is why the edge of the pellicle appears notched (s. fig. 1 d). The posterior quarter of the body is naked, as in *Urotricha* (s. fig. 1 c). According to Foissner, the extrusomes should be straight and spindle-shaped with a length of about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . According to my measurements they are about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  long. In terms of body shape, my specimens were more similar to Kahl's drawing (s. drawing 2, above). I have not yet found such slender specimens as Foissner drew them (s. drawing 1, above). However, I found the contractile vacuole to be terminal, as Foissner it indicates, and not sub-terminal, as Kahl drew them (s. drawing 2, above).



**Fig. 1 a-d:** *Paraurottricha discolor*. L = 26  $\mu$ m. Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen. Note the cilia free zone (CZ) at the posterior end and the notched pellicle (d, arrows). CC = caudal cilium, CV = contractile vacuole, EX = extrusomes, Ma = macronucleus, Mi = micronucleus, Mo = mouth opening. Obj. 100 X.