

Paraurotricha discolor
(Kahl, 1930) Foissner, 1983

Most likely ID: n.a.

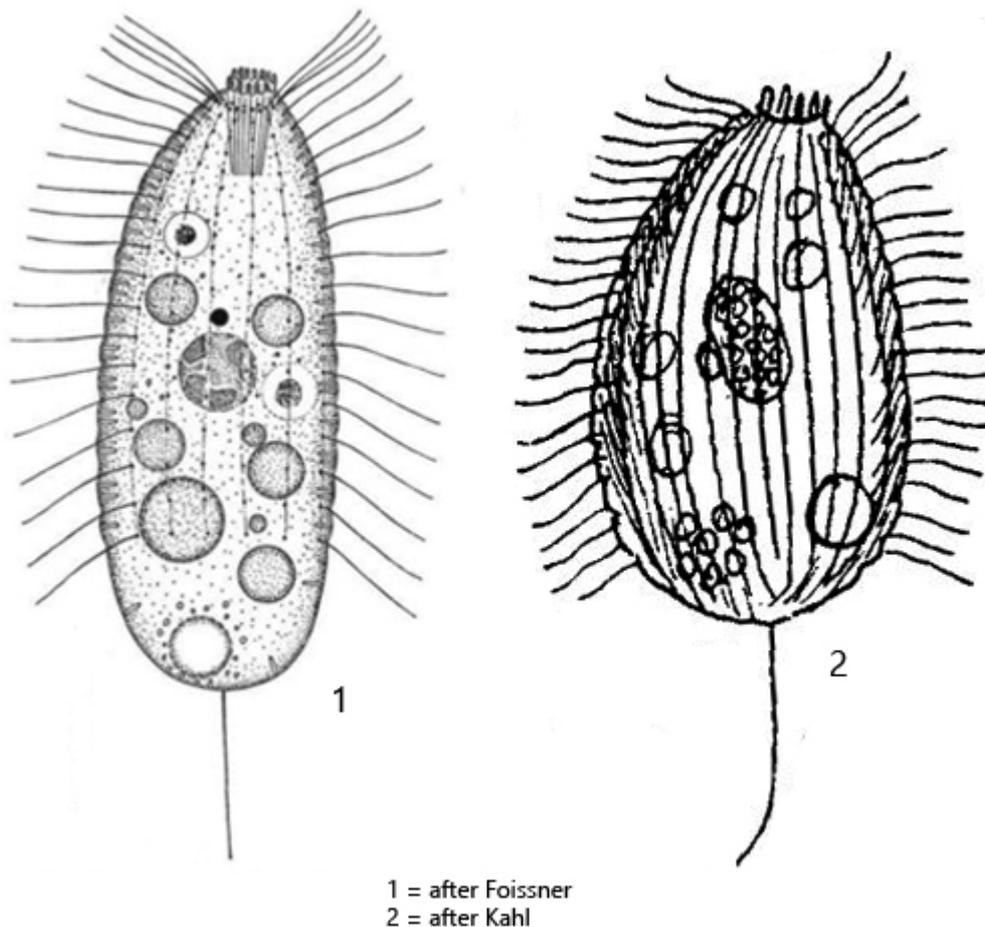
Synonym: *Urotricha discolor*

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



Paraurottricha discolor

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

I have so far only found *Paraurottricha 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 *Urottricha*, the body of *Paraurottricha discolor* is very flexible and the ciliate burrows in detritus. The size is given by Foissner as 30–40 μm and by Kahl as 40–50 μm . However, Kahl mentions he having found specimens with a length of 25 μm . 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 *Urottricha* (s. fig. 1 c). According to Foissner, the extrusomes should be straight and spindle-shaped with a length of about 0.5 μm . According to my measurements they are about 1 μm 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 μ 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.