

***Phacus helikoides* Pochmann, 1942**

Most likely ID: n.a.

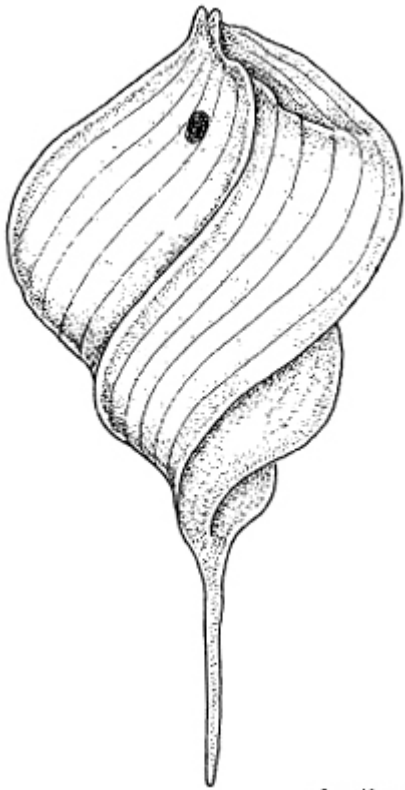
Synonym: *Phacus tortus* var. *helikoides*, *Phacus tortus* var. *tortuosus*, *Phacus sesquitortus*

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Phacus helikoides](#)

Diagnosis:

- cells slender pear-shaped with posterior spine
- spirally twisted, clockwise
- 1.5–2 complete turns
- length 70–120 µm, width 39–54 µm
- pellicle longitudinally striated
- numerous, disc-shaped chloroplasts
- one large paramylon body
- in elongated, spindle-shaped



after Kusel

Phacus helikoides

So far I have found *Phacus helikoides* only in the [Simmelried](#). There the species appears periodically at larger intervals. Most specimens are located between aquatic plants or on the layer of mud near the shore.

The body of *Phacus helikoides* is strongly twisted in a spiral. If one follows the twisted lateral margins, there are 1.5–2 turns clockwise before the body tapers into a straight spine, which also shows a spiral twist. Because of the strong spiraling of the body, the internal structure is difficult to discern. The species has only one larger paramylon grain in the middle of the body, which in my population turned out to be quite small and was only faintly visible (s. fig. 1 b).

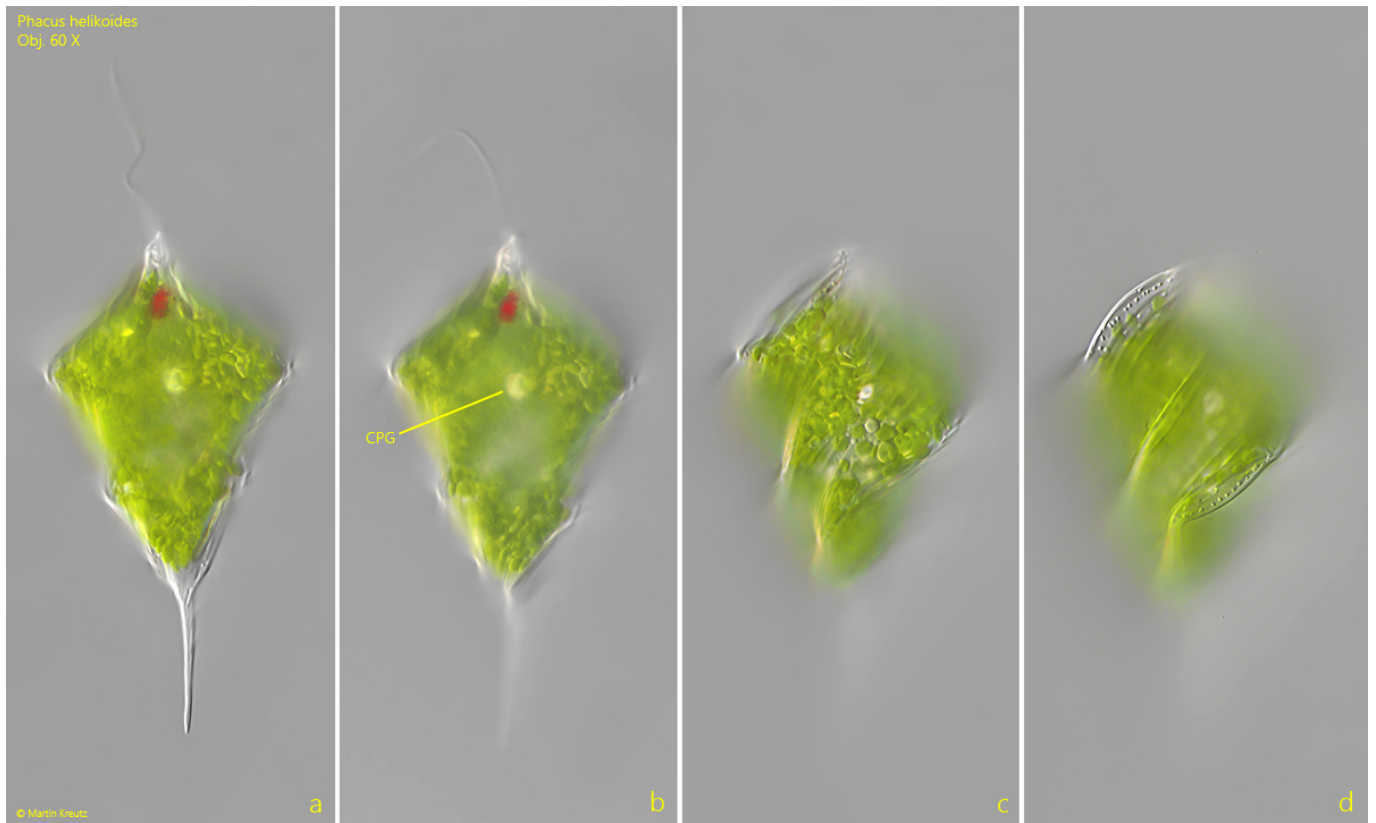


Fig. 1 a-d: *Phacus helikoides*. L = 120 μ m. Different focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen. CPG = central paramylon grain. Obj. 60 X.