Plationus patulus Müller, 1786

Most likely ID: n.a.

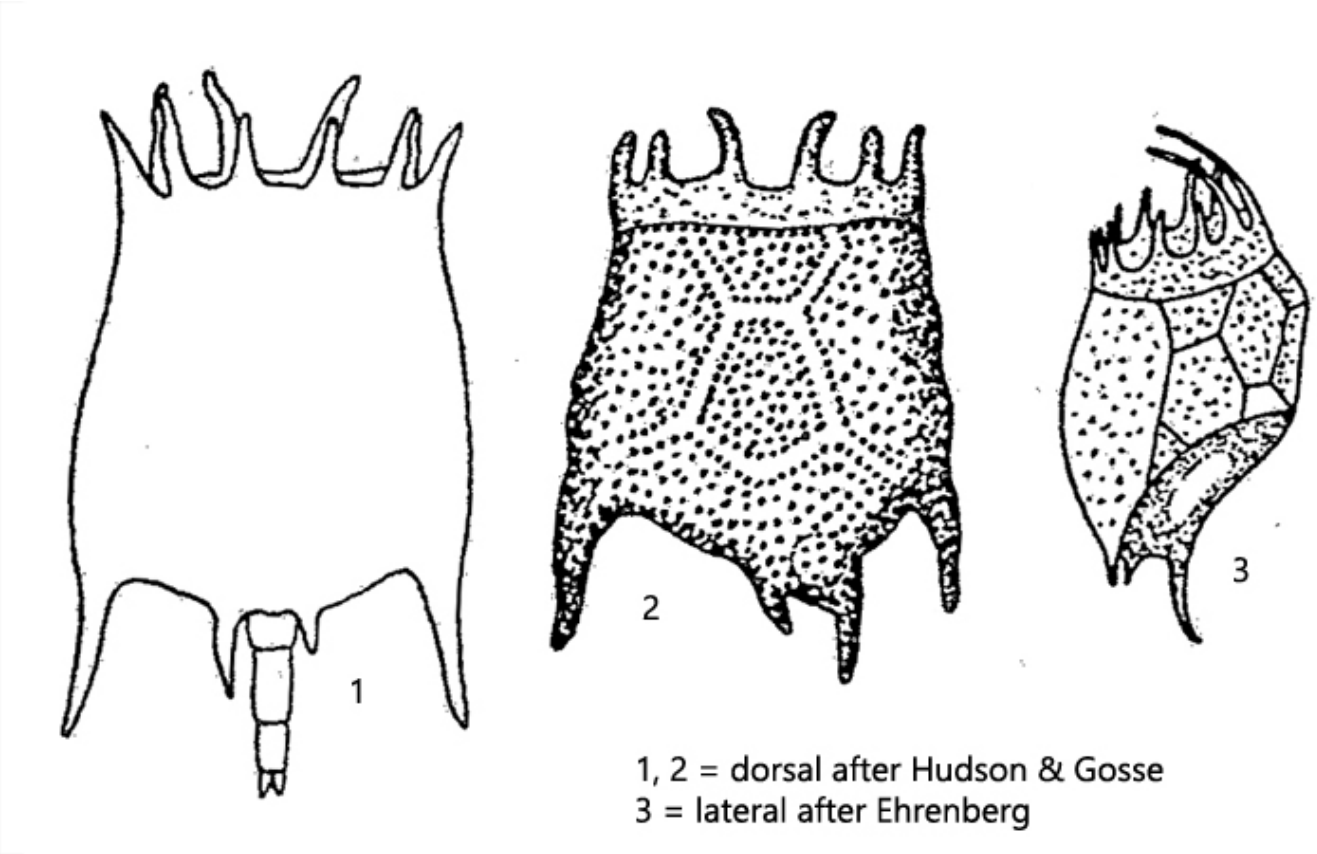
Synonym: *Brachionus patulus*, *Platyias patulus*

Sampling location: Ulmisried, Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Plationus patulus*

Diagnosis:

- lorica almost rectangular, dorso-ventrally flattened
- length 165–265 µm (with foot)
- anterior end of lorica with 10 spines
- posterior end of lorica with 4 spines
- dorsal side of lorica fielded and granulated
- foot three-segmented
- 2 slender toes with pointed ends
- one eyespot
- foot tube surronunded by short spines



Plationus patulus

I found *Plationus patulus* in 1996 and 2005 in the Simmlried and again in 2021 in a shallow pond on a flooded meadow. In my other collection sites, I was not able to detect this species and a after 2021, I have not found another specimen.

Plationus patulus is easily recognized by the 10 spines on the anterior margin of the lorica (s. fig. 3). Unlike species of the genus *Brachionus*, *Plationus* has a segmented foot rather than a ringed one (s. figs. 1 and 4 b).

More images and information of *Plationus patulus*: Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-*Plationus patulus*

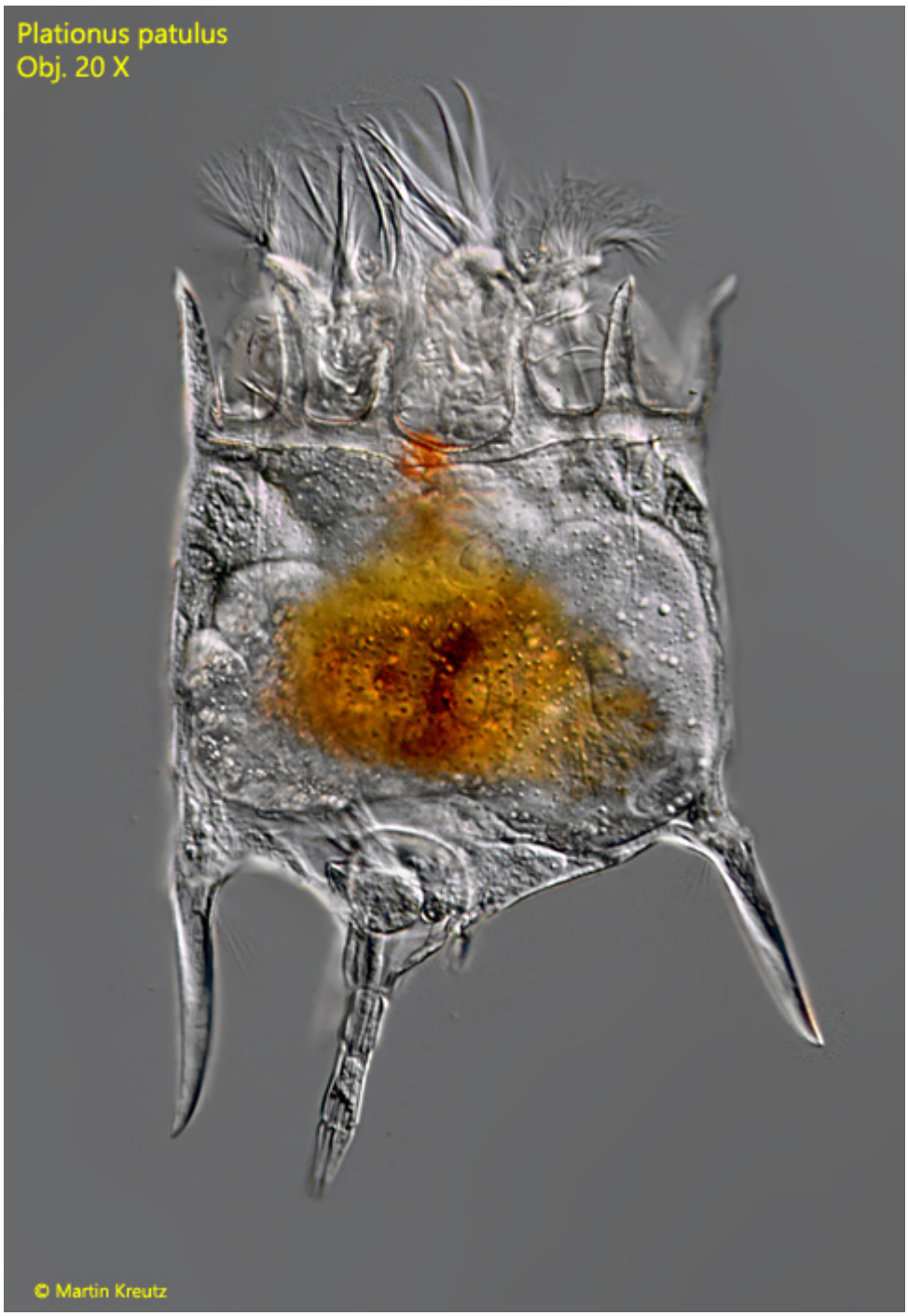


Fig. 1: *Plationus patulus*. L = 288 µm (with foot). Ventral view of a slightly squashed specimen with a fully extended foot. Obj. 20 X.

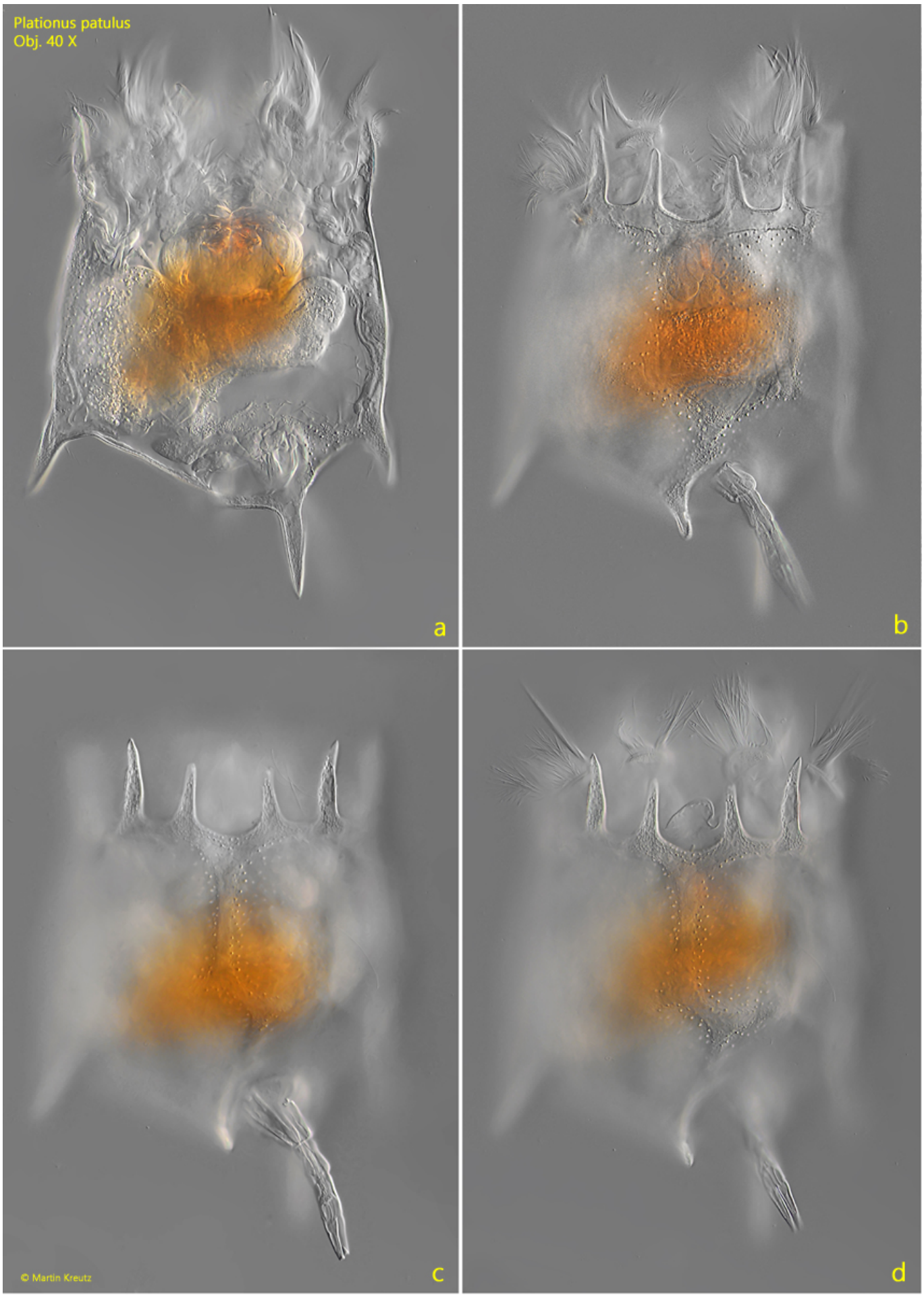

Plationus patulus
Obj. 40 X
a
b
c
© Martin Kreutz
d

Fig. 2 a-d: *Plationus patulus*. L = 272 µm (with foot). Ventral view of a second, slightly squashed specimen. Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 3: *Plationus patulus*. L = 275 µm (with foot). Ventral view of a slightly squashed specimen in brightfield illumination. Note the 10 spines at the anterior end of the lorica (1-10). Obj. 20 X.



Fig. 4 a-b: *Plationus patulus*. Two focal planes of the short spines surrounding the foot opening (arrows). FT = foot, LA = lateral antennae, TO = toes. Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 5: *Plationus patulus*. Ventral view with with the large red eyespot. Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 6: *Plationus patulus*. The trophi in a strongly squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.