

***Proales parasita* (Ehrenberg, 1838)**

Most likely ID: n.a.

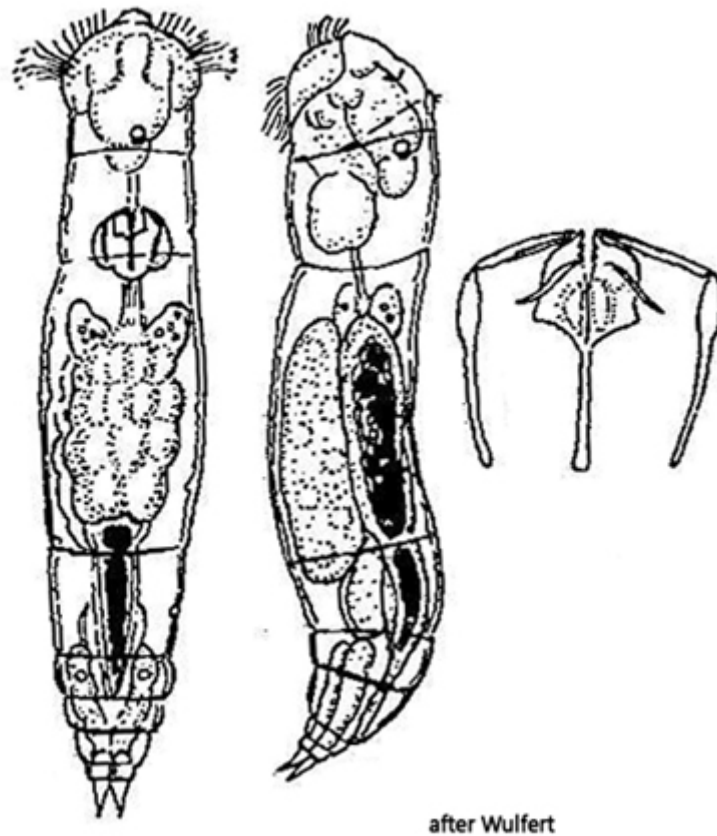
Synonym: *Notommata parasita*

Sampling location: Pond of Schmieder clinic

Phylogenetic tree: [*Proales parasita*](#)

Diagnosis:

- body spindle shaped
- length 140-160 µm
- foot short, two parts
- toes short, conical
- neck well marked
- one eyespot with lens, shifted to right side
- cerebral ganglion rectangular with hemispherical, granular sac
- stomach filled with greenish, yellowish and reddish masses
- parasitic lifestyle in *Volvox*, *Uroglana* and *Ophrydium*



Proales parasita

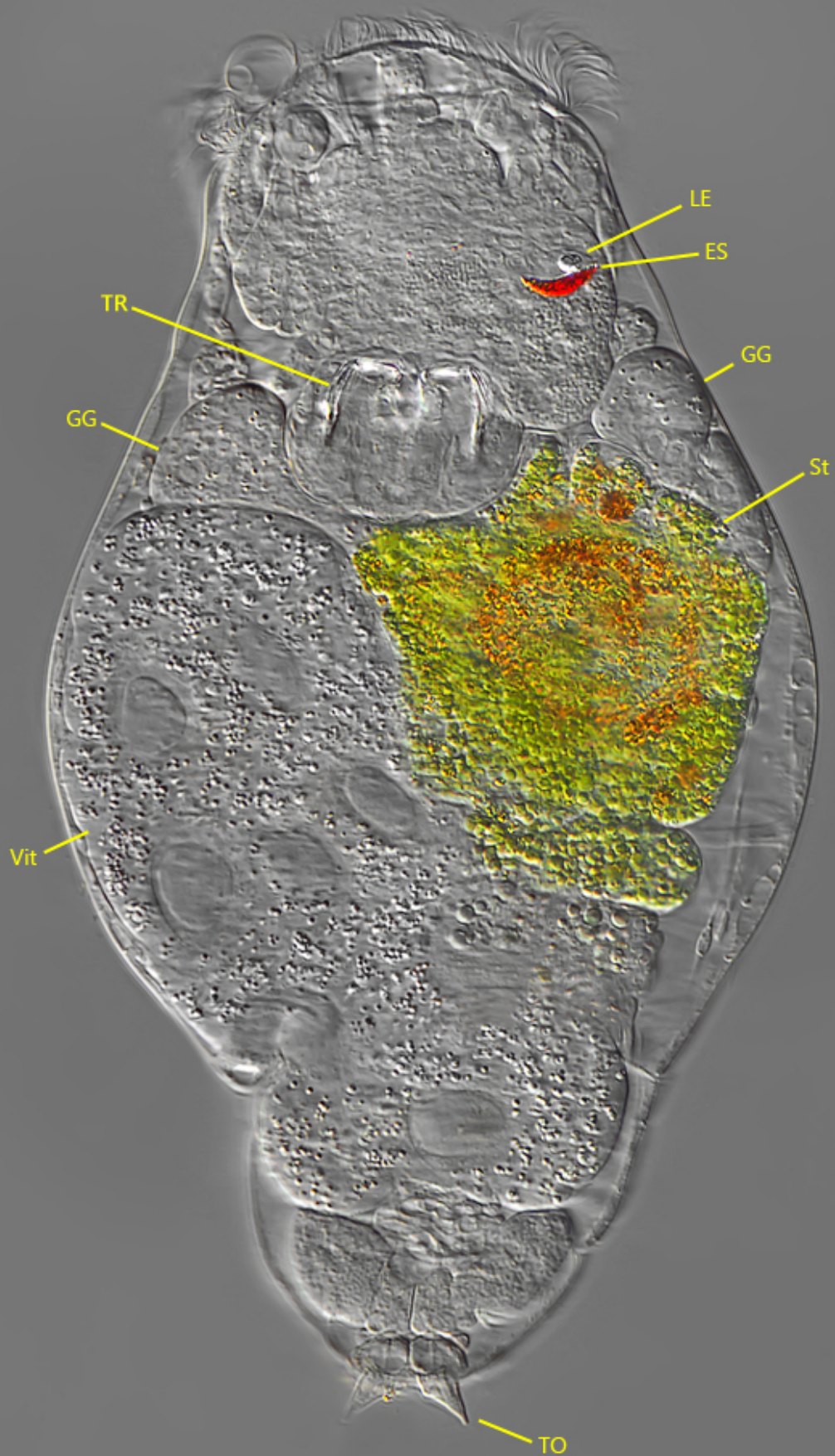
I could find *Proales parasita* only once in June 2017. The identification is not difficult due to the parasitic lifestyle in colonies of *Volvox*, *Uroglena* or *Ophrydium*. The two other parasitic rotifers that live in *Volvox* or *Uroglena* are *Ascomorphella volvocicola* and *Cephalodella edax*. The first species has no toes and *Cephalodella edax* has the eyespot on top of the forehead. These features mean that these two species can be excluded.

The specimens in my population were about 10 % larger than the maximum stated length (160 μm). However, there are few independent descriptions of *Proales parasita*, so little is known about the variability in size. As in many *Proales* species, the singular eyespot is asymmetrically arranged in the body and shifted to the right side of the body (s. fig. 2). Due to the rich food supply from the cells of their host, the specimens can be opaque and deformed.



Fig. 1 a-b: *Proales parasita*. L = 190 μ m. Two focal planes of a freely swimming specimen from left. Note the cerebral ganglion with the adjacent granular sac (GS). Obj. 60 X.

Proales parasita
Obj. 100 X



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Fig. 2: *Proales parasita*. A squashed specimen from dorsal. Note the eyespot (ES) with a lens (LE) shifted to the right side. GG = gastric glands, ST = stomach, TO = toes, TR = trophi, Vit = vitellarium. Obj. 100 X.

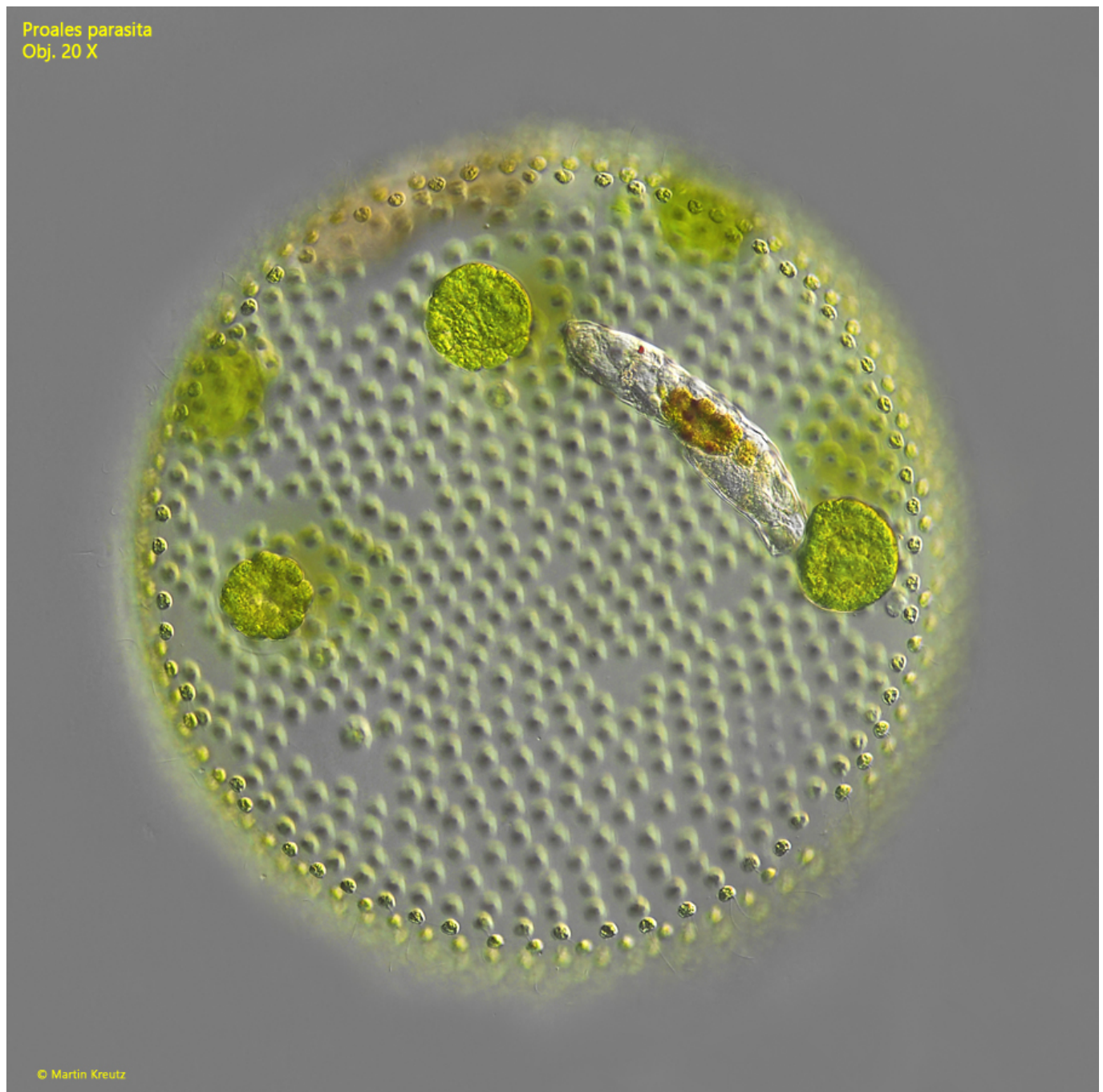


Fig. 3: *Proales parasita*. L = 180 μ m. A specimen parasitizes in a colony of *Volvox aureus* and feeds on the host's cells. Obj. 100 X.

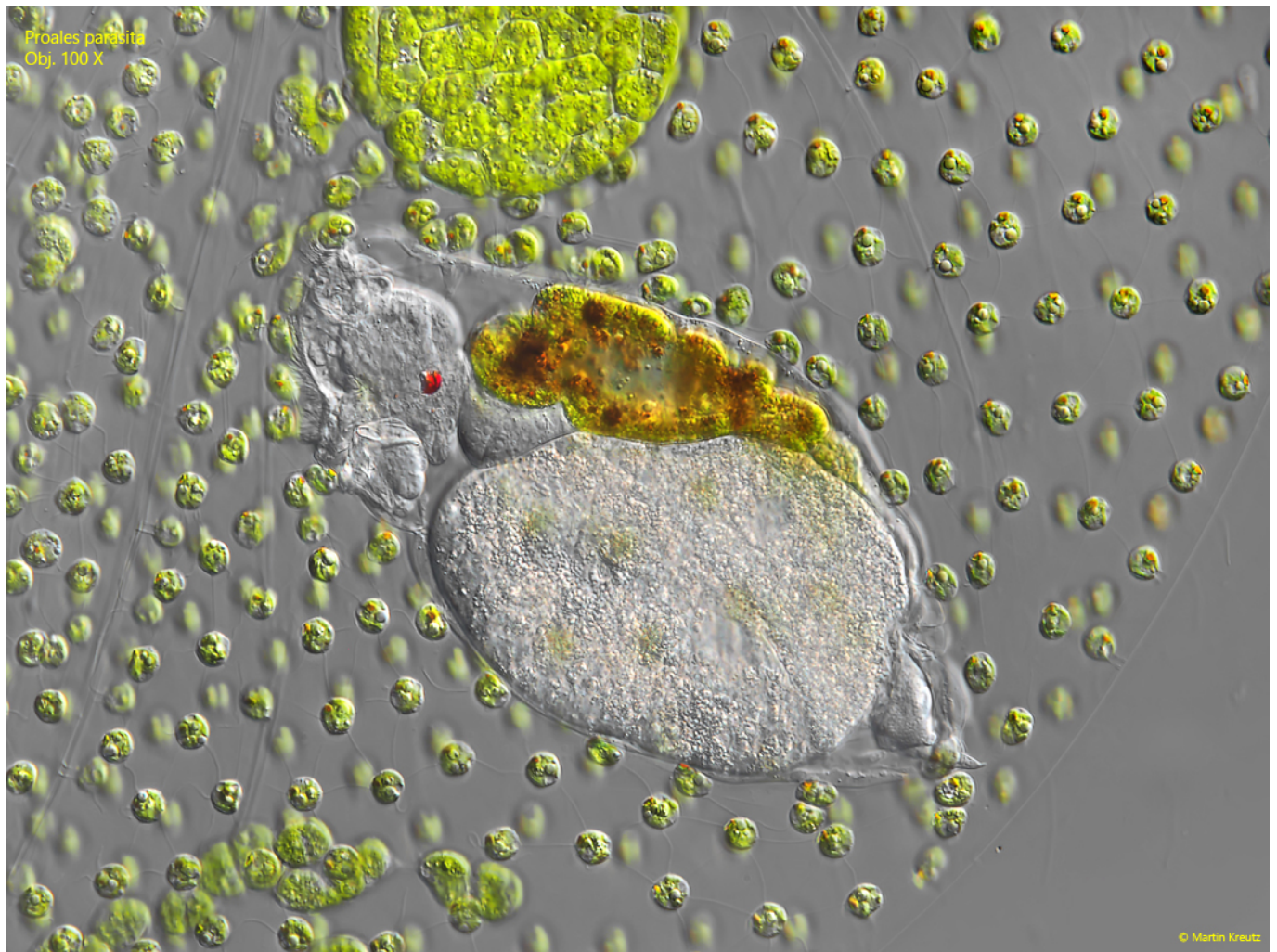


Fig. 4: *Proales parvita*. The specimen as shown in fig. 3 in detail. Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 5: *Proales parasita*. The trophi in a strongly squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.