Pyxicola operculigera Kent, 1882

Most likely ID: n.a.

Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Harbor basin of Kloster (Hiddensee)

Phylogenetic tree: Pyxicola operculigera

Diagnosis:

- body trumpet-shaped
- length 60 µm (of zooid)
- lorica vase-shaped, chitinioid, often wavy margin
- lorica colorless and transparent, brownish-orange in older specimens
- operculum circular
- zooid protrudes about 1/3 out of lorica
- stalk long, about twice of body length, colorless
- one contractile vacuole in anderior half
- pellicle with transverse striation
- macronucleus vermiform



after Kahl Pyxicola operculigera

Pyxicola operculigera is a marine species which I found in large numbers in the harbor basin of the village of Kloster on the island Hiddensse.

The description of *Pyxicola operculigera* by Kahl is very brief. The main features are the vase-shaped body with a neck-like constriction and a very long stalk, which can reach about twice the length of the body (s. fig. 1 a-b). Kahl also mentions the wavy margin of the lorica, which I was able to observe in practically all specimens. *Pyxicola operculigera* has a so-called operculum, which is attached to the persistome and serves to seal the lorica aperture when the zooid retracts (s. figs. 3 and 4 c).

At 60–85 μ m, the specimens in my population were somewhat larger than Kahl states (60 μ m). Extended specimens are difficult to examine because they immediately retract when pressure is applied by the coverslip. However, I was able to clearly identify the position of the contractile vacuole, the transverse striation of the pellicle and parts of the macronucleus (s. fig. 4 a-c).

More images and information on *Pyxicola operculigera*: Wolfgang Bettighofer-Protisten.de-Pyxicola operculigera



Fig. 1 a-b: Pyxicola operculigera. $L = 83 \mu m$ (of zooid). An extended older specimen with a brownish-orange lorica and a long stalk (L = $152 \mu m$). Obj. 40 X.

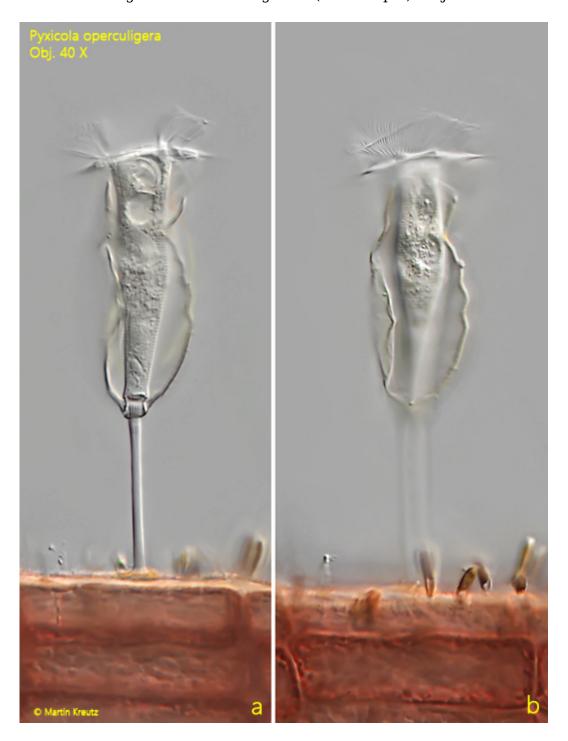


Fig. 2 a-b: $Pyxicola\ operculigera$. L = 72 μm (of zooid). A second, younger specimen in an almost colorless lorica. Obj. 40 X.



 $\textbf{Fig. 3:} \ \textit{Pyxicola operculigera}. \ \textbf{The circular operculum (OP) of an extendes specimen with a}$ diameter of 20 $\mu m.$ Obj. 40 X.



Fig. 4 a-c: Pyxicola operculigera. $L=67~\mu m$ (of zooid). Different focal planes of an extendes (a) and fully retracted (c) specimen. Note the closed aperture of the lorica with the operculum (Op) in the retracted specimen. CV = contractile vacuole, IB = infundibulum, Ma= macronucleus, SP = transverse striation of the pellicle. Obj. 100 X.