

***Rhabdomonas spiralis* (Pringsheim, 1942)**

**Most likely ID:** n.a.

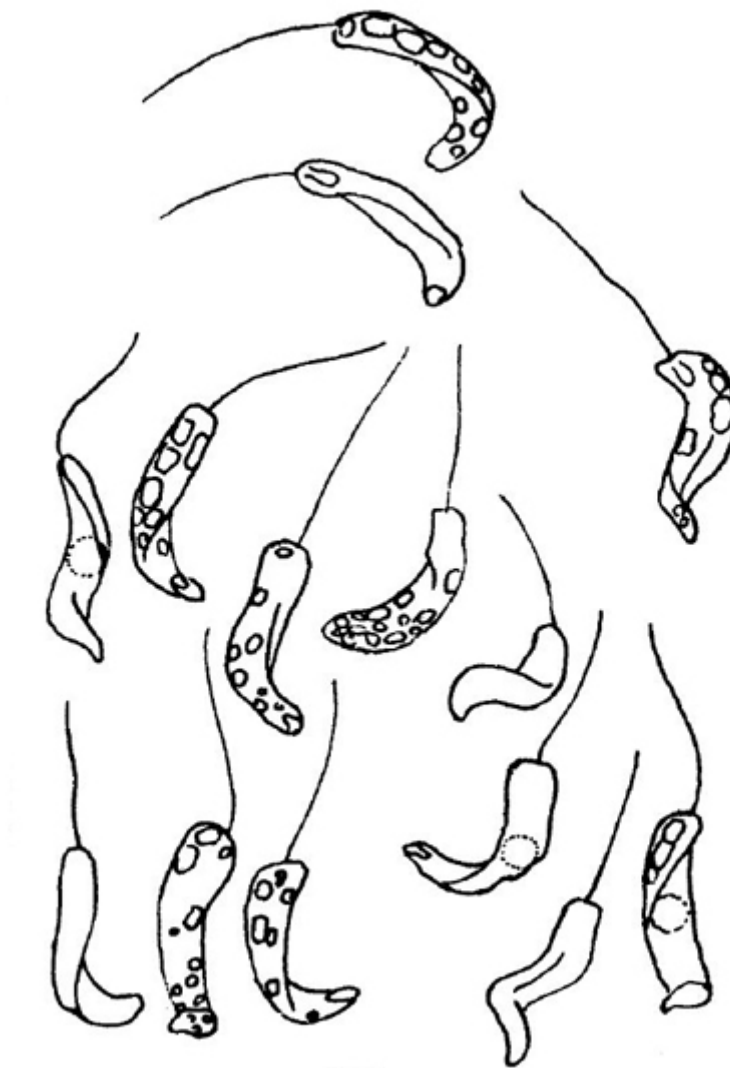
**Synonym:** n.a.

**Sampling location:** [Simmelried](#)

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Rhabdomonas spiralis](#)

**Diagnosis:**

- cells spirally twisted, slightly laterally flattened
- pellicle with a spirally keel, but smooth
- length 14–17 µm (from apical end to first bend)
- anterior end transversely blunted or broadly rounded
- posterior end slightly tapered and pointed
- one flagellum of body length
- paramylon grains ovoid or short cylindrical

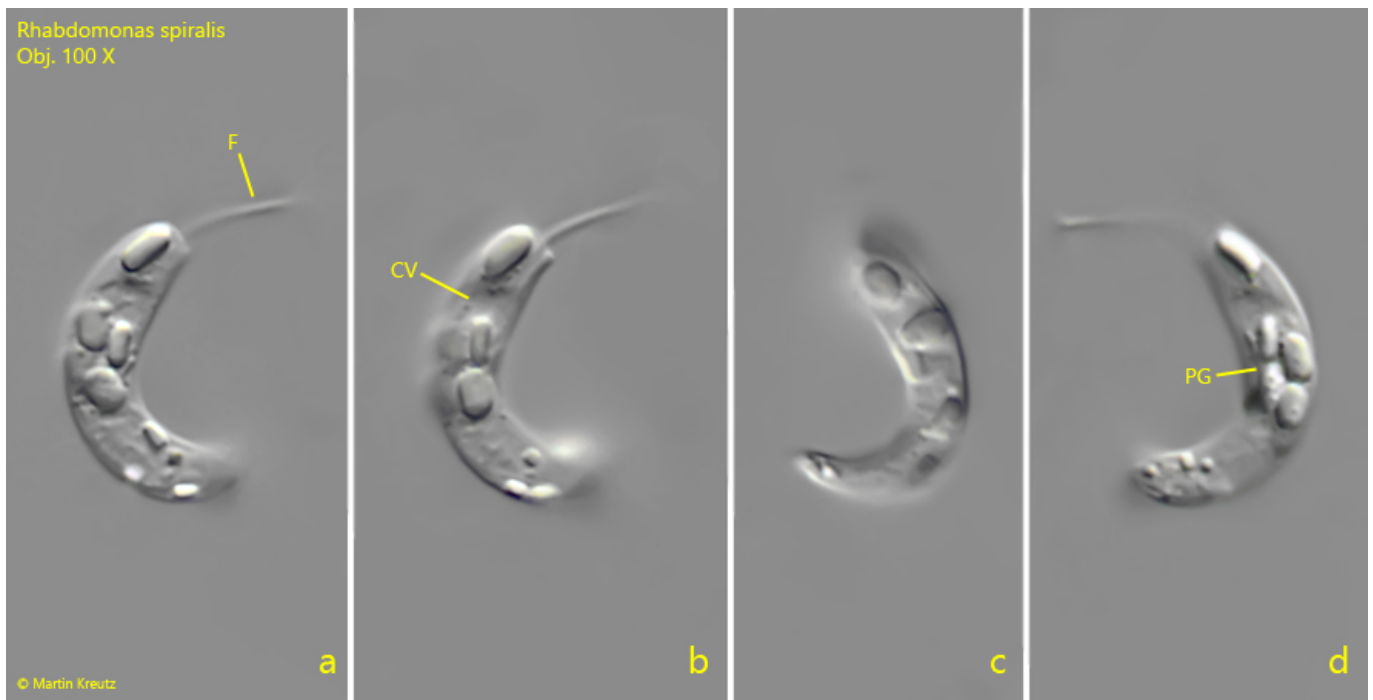


after Pringsheim

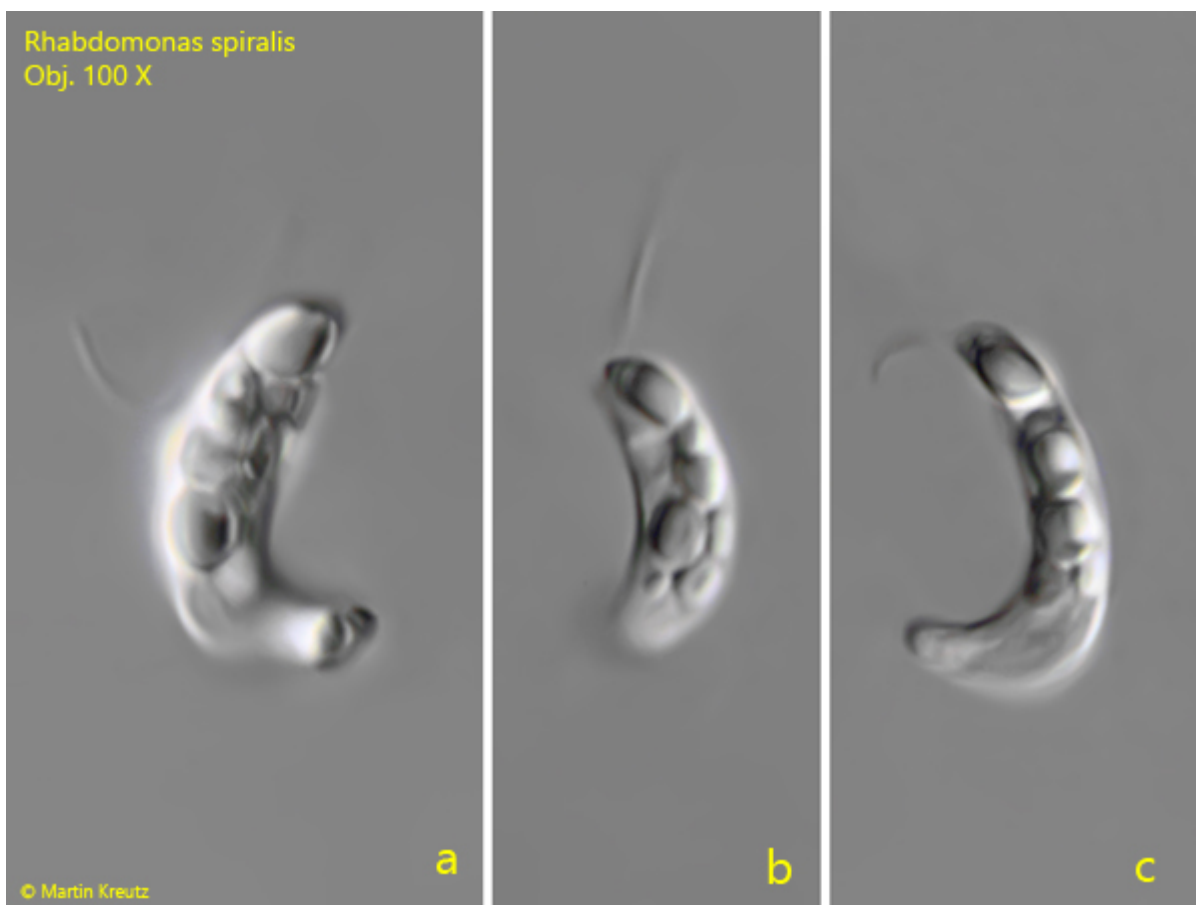
*Rhabdomonas spiralis*

So far I have found *Rhabdomonas spiralis* only in the [Simmelried](#). However, the species occurs here only in large, temporal intervals, sometimes with several years in between. Because of the spiral shape and small size the species is easy to identify. Obviously only the original description by Pringsheim is available. In it he describes the difficulty to determine the exact shape of the cells and to recognize their internal structure.

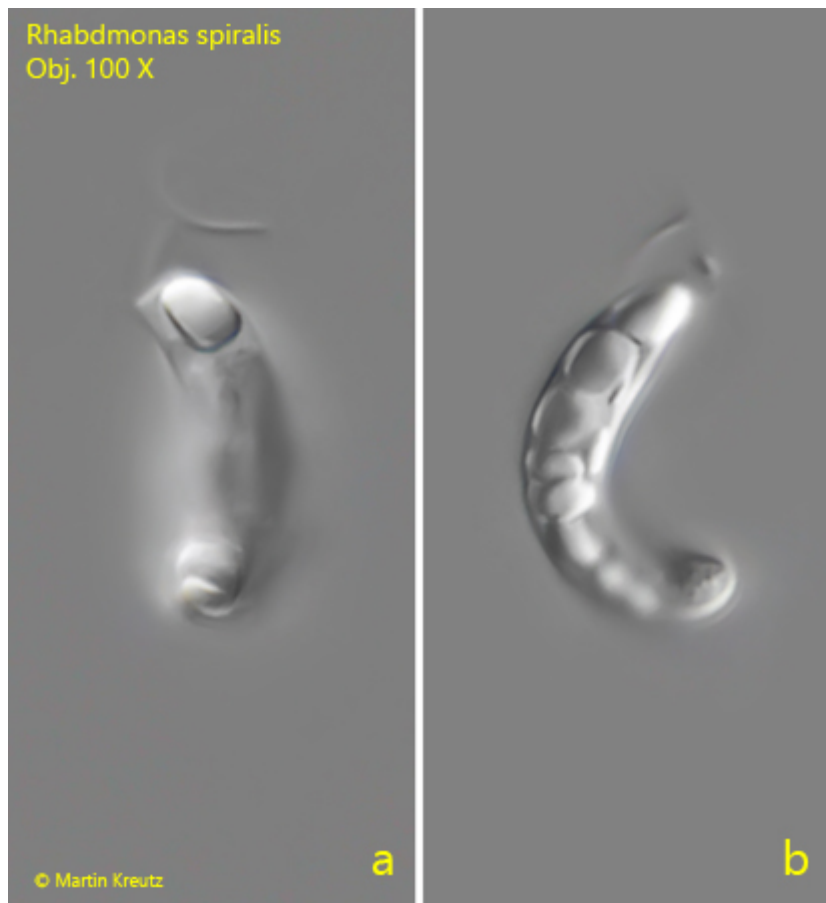
It is noted by Huber-Pestalozzi (1955) that *Rhabdomonas spiralis* would have been better placed in the genus *Menoidium* because of the curved shape and the slight flattening of the cells. However, to my knowledge, this has not yet been done.



**Fig. 1 a-d:** *Rhabdomonas spiralis*. L = 15  $\mu$ m. A freely swimming specimen. CV = contractile vacuole, F = flagellum, PG = paramylon grains. Obj. 100 X.



**Fig. 2 a-c:** *Rhabdomonas spiralis*. L = 16  $\mu$ m. A second, freely swimming specimen. Obj. 100 X.



**Fig. 3 a-b:** *Rhabdomonas spiralis*. L = 15  $\mu$ m. A third, freely swimming specimen. Obj. 100 X.