

***Rotaria macroceros* Gosse, 1851**

Most likely ID: n.a.

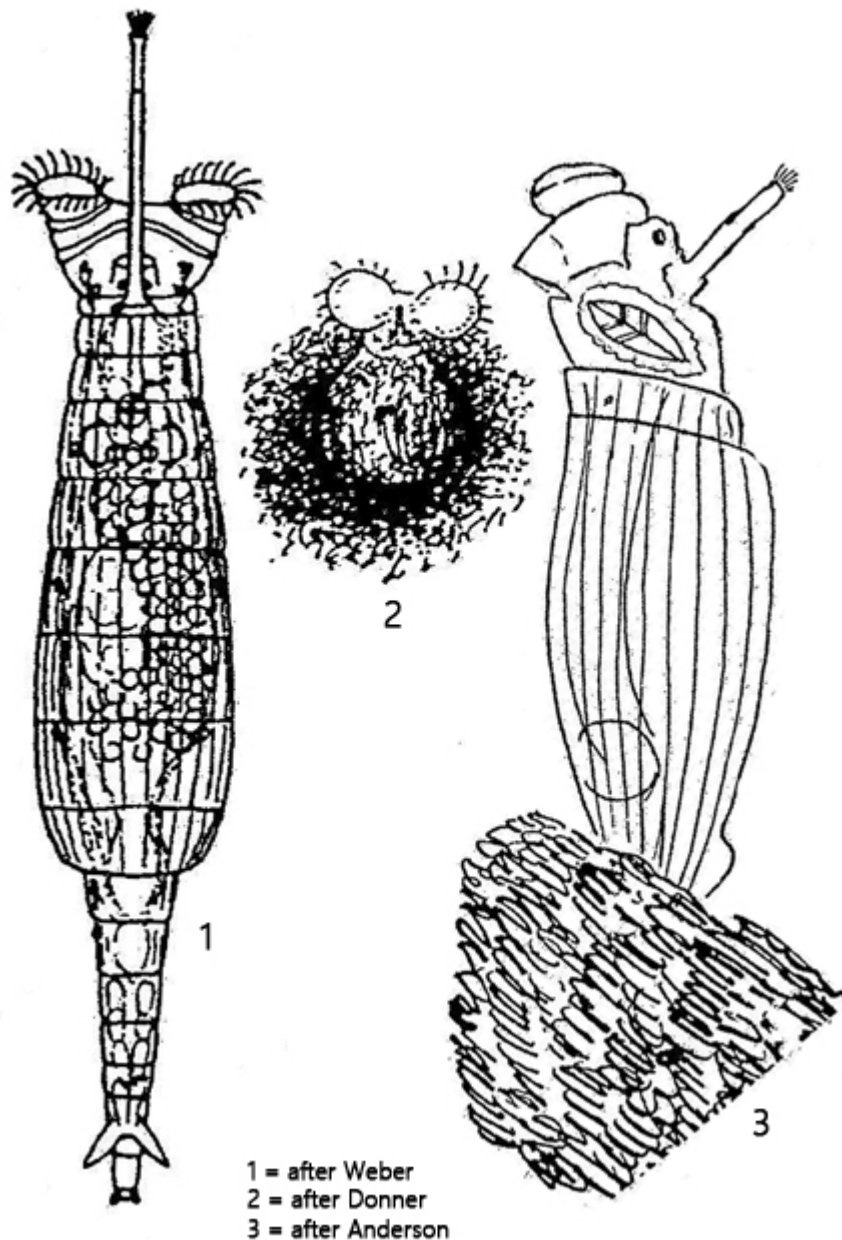
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Rotaria macroceros](#)

Diagnosis:

- hip segments clearly set off from foot
- body colorless or slightly yellowish
- cylindrical rostrum with 2 eyespots
- length 250–300 µm
- lives in mucilaginous tubes made of detritus
- often several individuals gathered in groups
- long dorsal antenna of two segments, length up to 72 µm
- dental formula 3/3
- foot, toes and spurs short



Rotaria macroceros

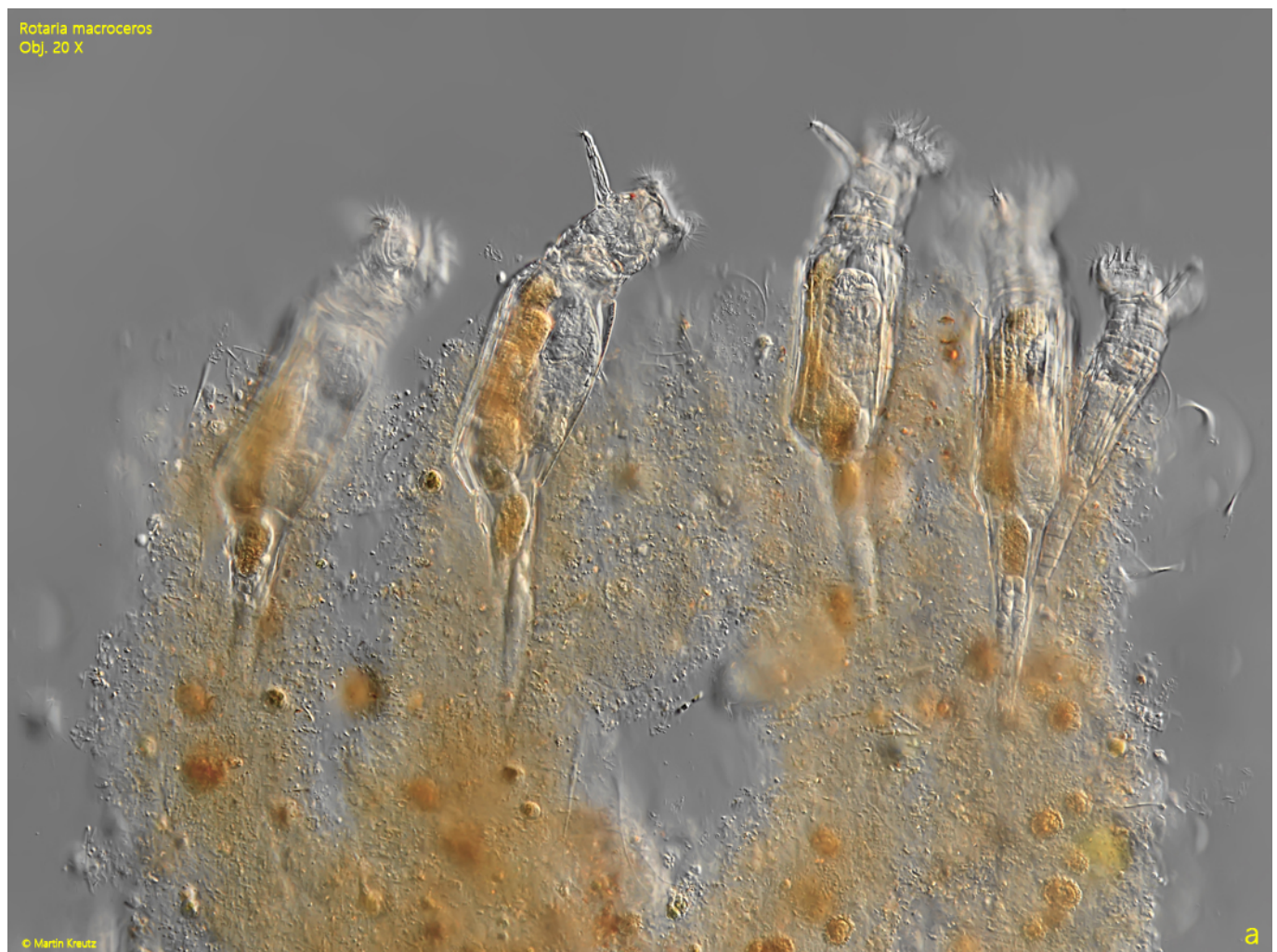
So far I have only found *Rotaria macroceros* in the [Simmelried](#). The individuals are very difficult to find in fresh samples, as they leave their tube when disturbed. However, if the sample containers are left for 2-3 weeks without direct sunlight, nests consisting of several tubes can often be found on the container walls (s. fig. 1 a-b). Macroscopically, these nests have a flake-like appearance. They must be removed very carefully with a pipette and placed under the coverslip with a high layer thickness. The water is then allowed to evaporate on its own to achieve an optimum layer thickness. However, if this becomes too small, the specimens will leave their tube or contract.

Within the genus *Rotaria*, *Rotaria macroceros* is one of the few species that live in

self-constructed tubes. These consist of detritus and are often yellow-brown in color (s. fig. 2). This is an important identification feature of *Rotaria macroceros*. Another important feature is the very long dorsal antenna (s. fig. 3). It consists of two segments and can therefore elongate enormously. However, it is often seen half retracted. Therefore the specimens have to observe specimens a little longer to see both segments.

Some of the specimens in my population were up to 400 μm long and thus about 25 % longer than Donner (1965) stated (250–300 μm). However, all other characteristics corresponded with his description.

More images and information on *Rotaria macroceros*: [Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-Rotaria macroceros](#)



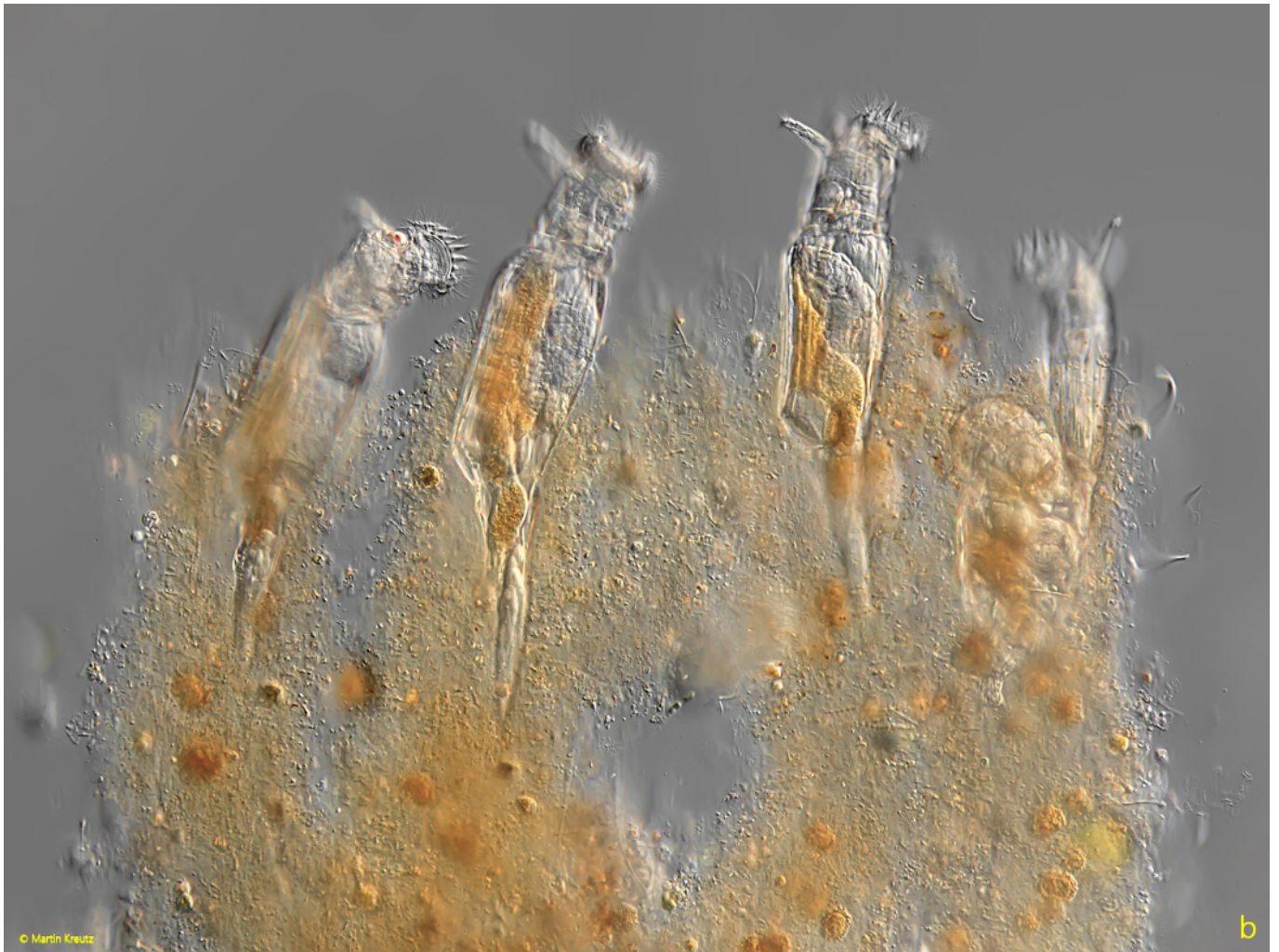


Fig. 1 a-b: *Rotaria macroceros*. L = 370–400 μm . A nest of 5 specimens in their mucilaginous tubes of detritus. Obj. 20 X.

Rotaria macroceros
Obj. 40 X



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Fig. 2: *Rotaria macroceros*. L = 286 μm . A single specimen in a long tube with a diameter of about 80 μm . Obj. 40 X.

Rotaria macroceros
Obj. 60 X

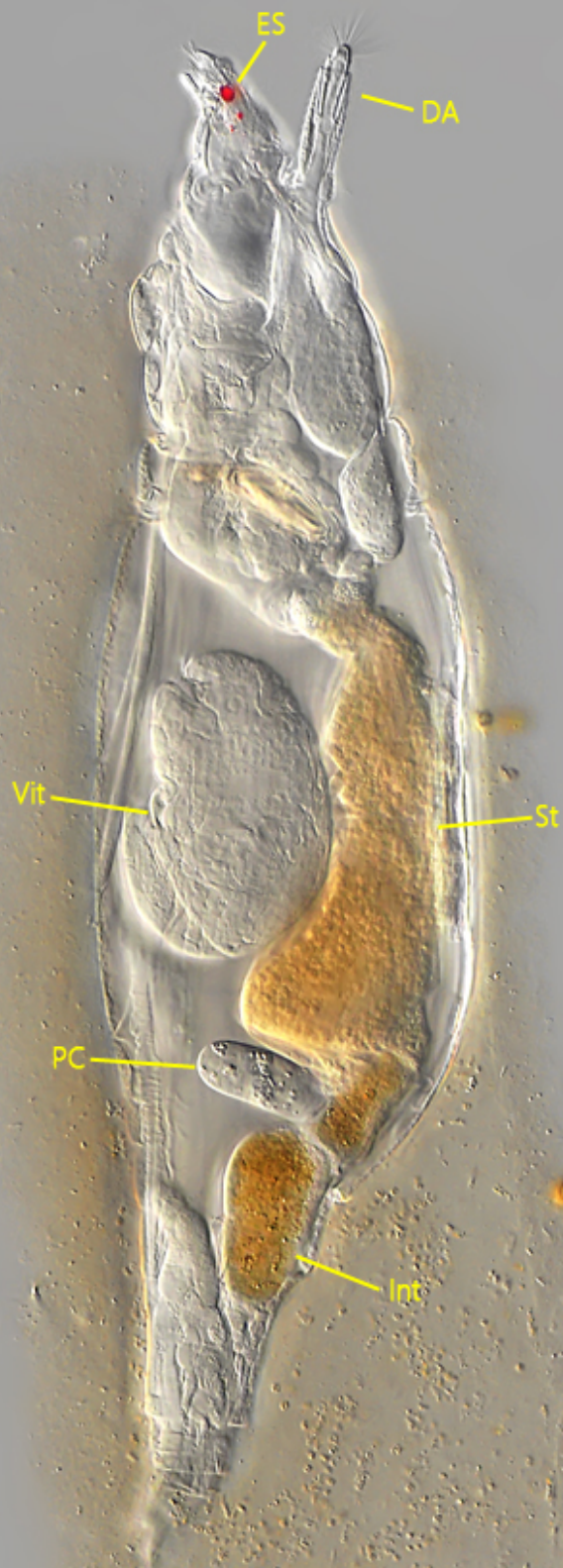


Fig. 3: *Rotaria macroceros*. A contracted and slightly squashed specimen. Note the long dorsal antenna (DA). Below the stomach (St) a parasitic fungus cell (PC) of the genus *Bertramia* is visible. ES = eyespot, Int = intestinum. Obj. 60 X.