

Spathidiopsis luciae

(Kahl, 1936) Lipscomb & Riordan, 2012

Most likely ID: n.a.

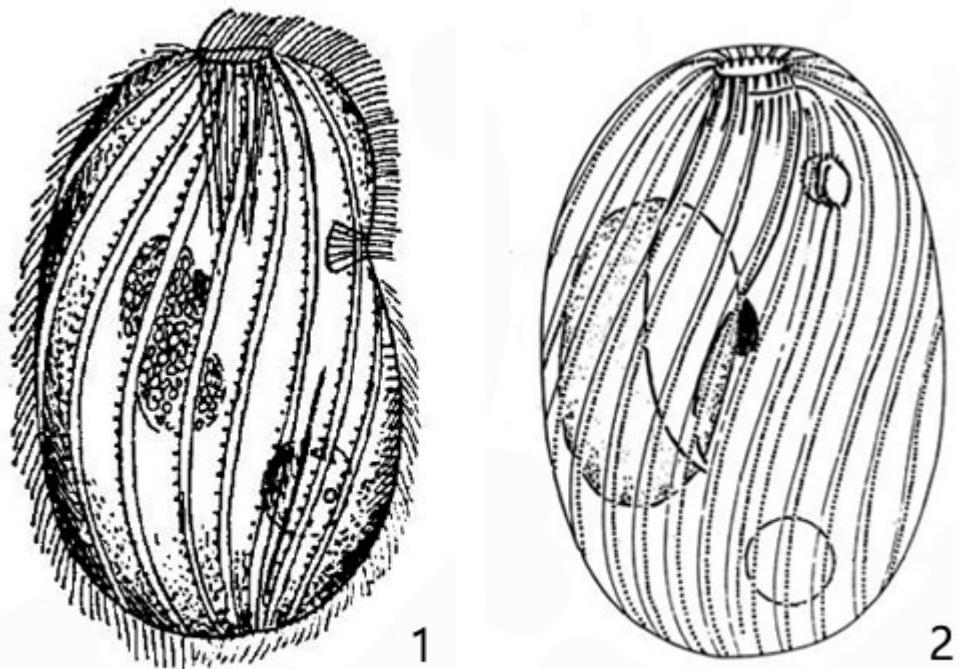
Synonym: *Placus luciae*, *Thoracophrya luciae*

Sampling location: [Ulmisried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [*Spathidiopsis luciae*](#)

Diagnosis:

- length about 50 µm
- body oval shaped
- oral aperture located apically
- lateral invagination of unknown function in anterior third
- macronucleus oval
- pellicle with conspicuously spiral ridges
- contractile vacuole located ventral and subterminal



1 = after Kahl

2 = after Pätsch

Spathidiopsis luciae

Spathidiopsis luciae is described as a very common ciliate. However, since 1992 I have only been able to find one specimen in [Ulmisried](#) in the year 2022. There I found the specimen in a sample from an accumulation of leaves, which were jammed in front of a weir overflow. *Spathidiopsis luciae* is quite small at about 50 µm, but it is immediately recognizable by fielded and ribbed stripes arranged parallel to the kineties. The purpose of this fielding is unknown. In addition, it also possesses a laterally located invagination (LI). The function of the invagination is also unknown and it is not associated with the mouth opening (MO):

Spathidiopsis luciae
Obj. 100 X



Spathidiopsis luciae
Obj. 100 X



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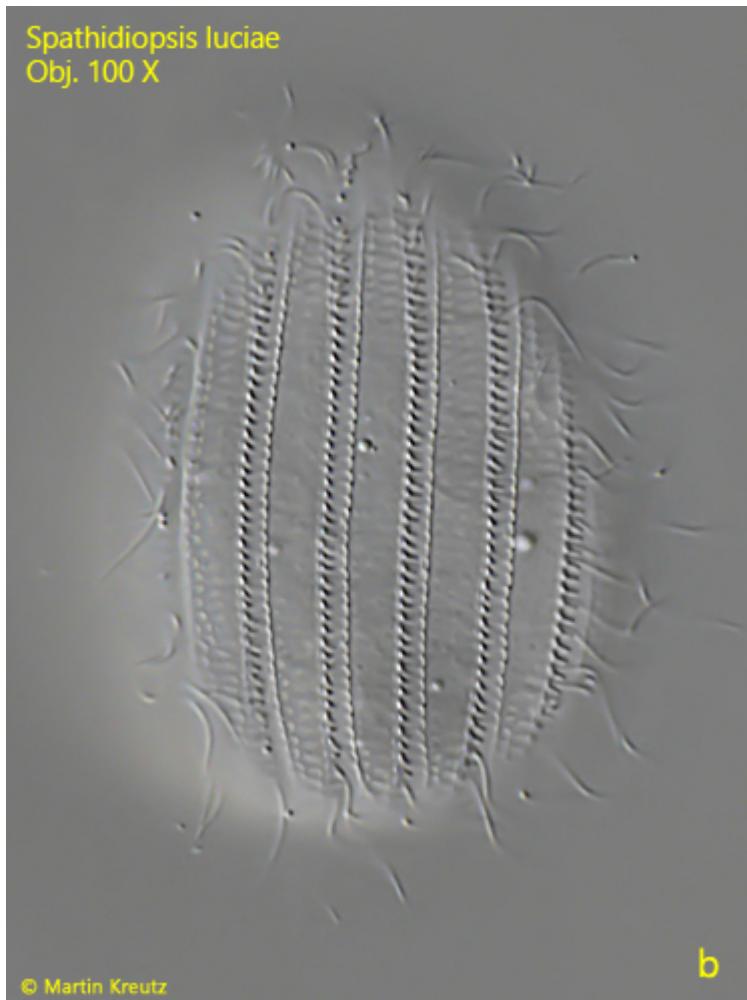
Fig. 1 a-c: *Spathidiopsis luciae*. L = 47 μ m. a,b) slightly squashed specimen. c) strong squashed specimen. CV = contractile vacuole, Ma = macronucleus, LI = lateral invagination, OA = oral apparatus. Obj. 100 X.

Spathidiopsis luciae
Obj. 100 X



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Spathidiopsis luciae
Obj. 100 X



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b

Fig. 2 a-b: *Spathidiopsis luciae*. L = 47 μ m. The fielded and ribbed stripes of the pellicle in two slightly different focal planes. Obj. 100 X.