

***Sphenomonas teres* (Stein) Klebs, 1892**

Most likely ID: n.a.

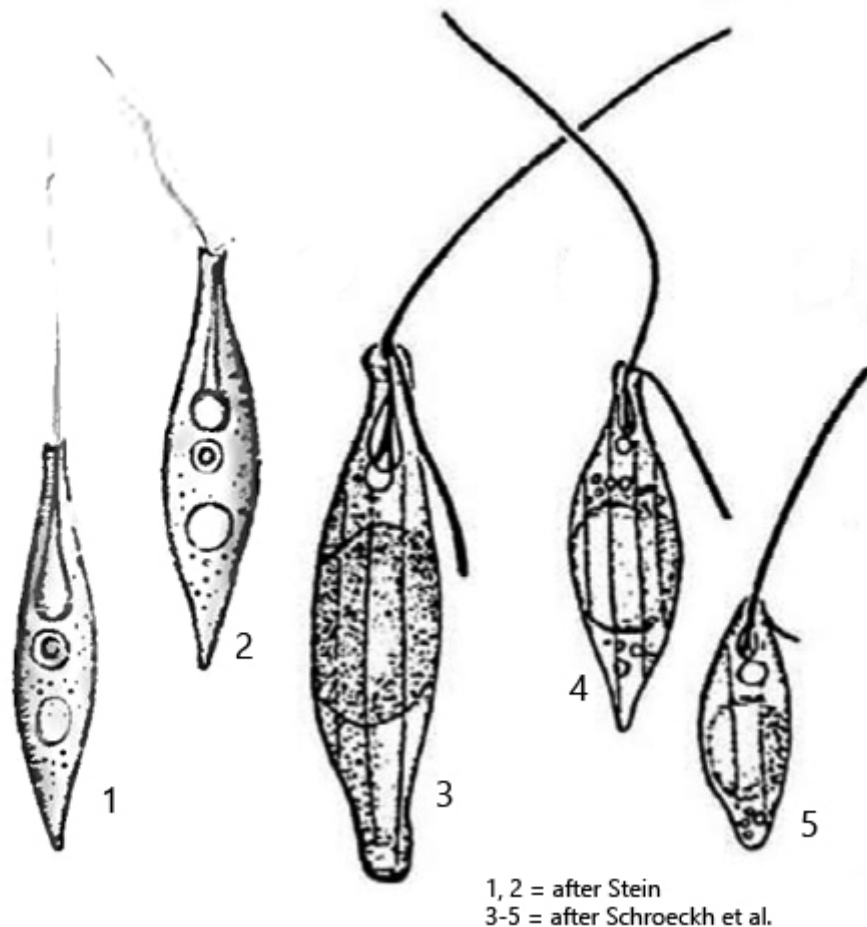
Synonym: *Atractonema teres*

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Sphenomonas teres](#)

Diagnosis:

- body elongate elliptical, posterior end pointed or slightly swollen
- apically oblique with slight neck and collar
- length 11–30 µm
- pellicle with 6–8 inconspicuous, longitudinal ridges (hard to see)
- locomotion flagellum with body length
- trailing flagellum about one fourth of body length
- reservoir dorsal with associated contractile vacuole
- nucleus above cell equator
- gelatinous body in below nucleus
- roundish paramylon grains below and above gelatinous body



Sphenomonas teres

My only find of *Sphenomonas teres* to date comes from the uppermost mud layer of the [Simmelried](#). As this euglenid flagellate is quite small, I may have overlooked it in the past.

Sphenomonas teres can be distinguished from the similar species [Sphenomonas quadrangularis](#) by the fact that the pellicle has only a few delicate longitudinal ridges, which are difficult to recognize (s. fig. 3 c). In most cases the pellicular of *Sphenomonas teres* appears smooth. From the oblique apical end the locomototory flagellum and the trailing flagellum originate.

Almost all specimens in my population had a slightly swollen posterior end and thus resembled drawing 3 (s. drawings above). The members of the genus *Sphenomonas* have a large, gelatinous body, which is located approximately in the middle of the body (s. fig. 3 a). *Sphenomonas teres* also has such a body. This hyaline body has already aroused the interest of the first observers. It is insoluble in both alcohol and ether (i.e. no oil or fat). In water, sodium hydroxide and ammonia the body swells but does not dissolve. It is thought to be a high molecular weight reserve of unknown nature.

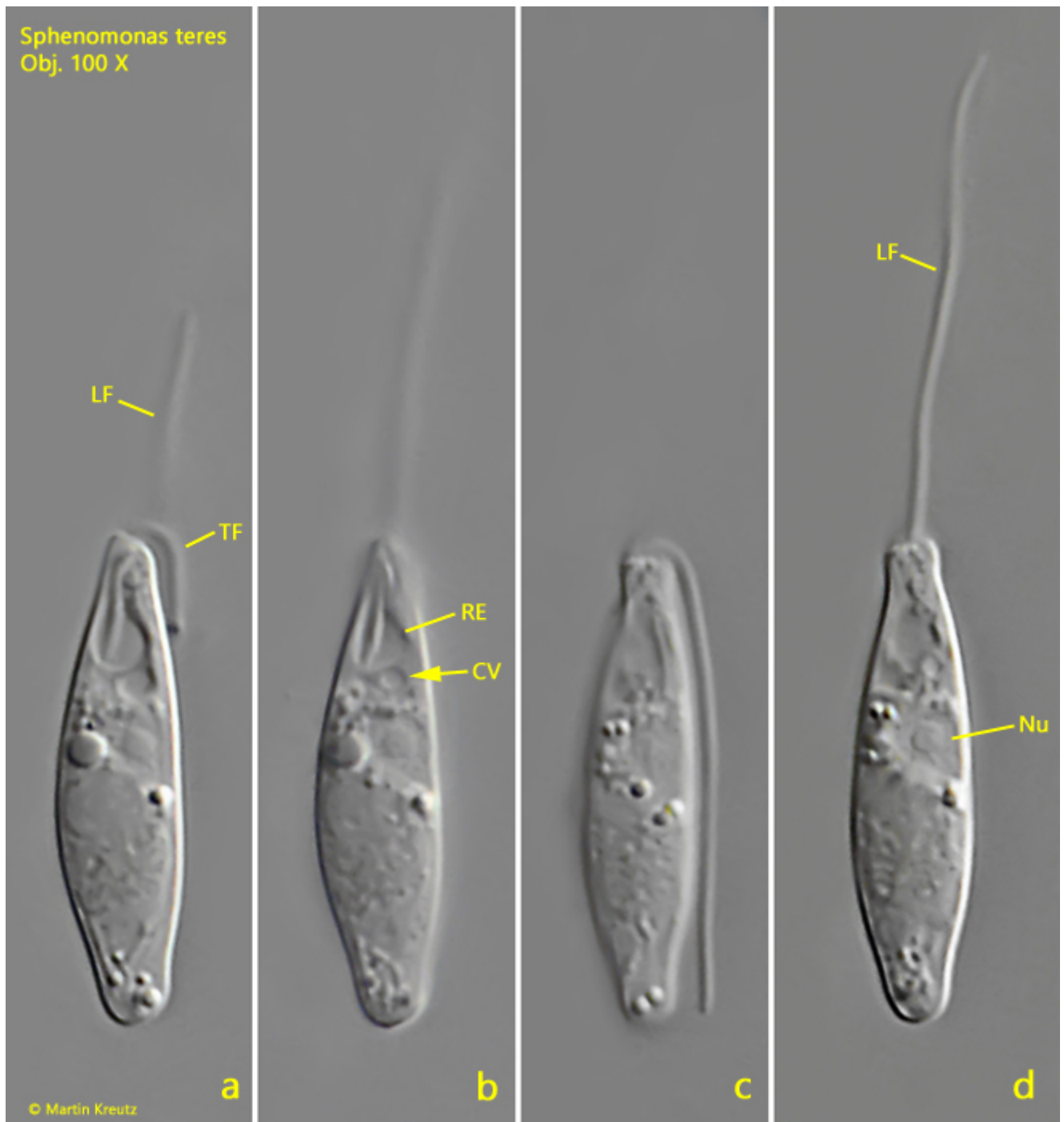


Fig. 1 a-d: *Sphenomonas teres*. L = 20 μ m. A freely swimming specimen. Note the contractile vacuole (CV) associated with the reservoir (RE). LF = locomotion flagellum, Nu = nucleus, TF = trailing flagellum. Obj. 100 X.

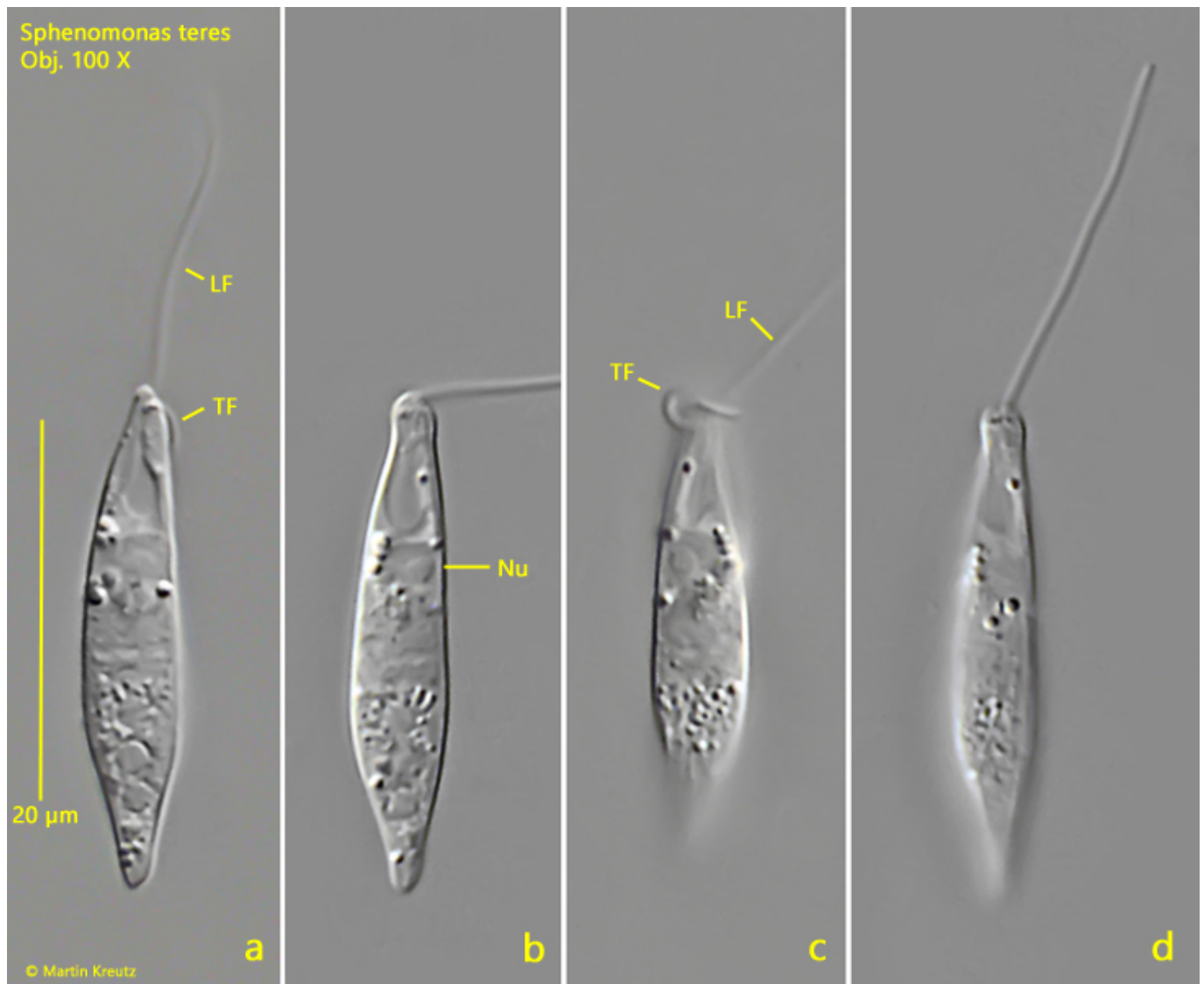


Fig. 2 a-d: *Sphenomonas teres*. L = 24 µm. A second, freely swimming specimen. LF = locomotion flagellum, Nu = nucleus, TF = trailing flagellum. Obj. 100 X.

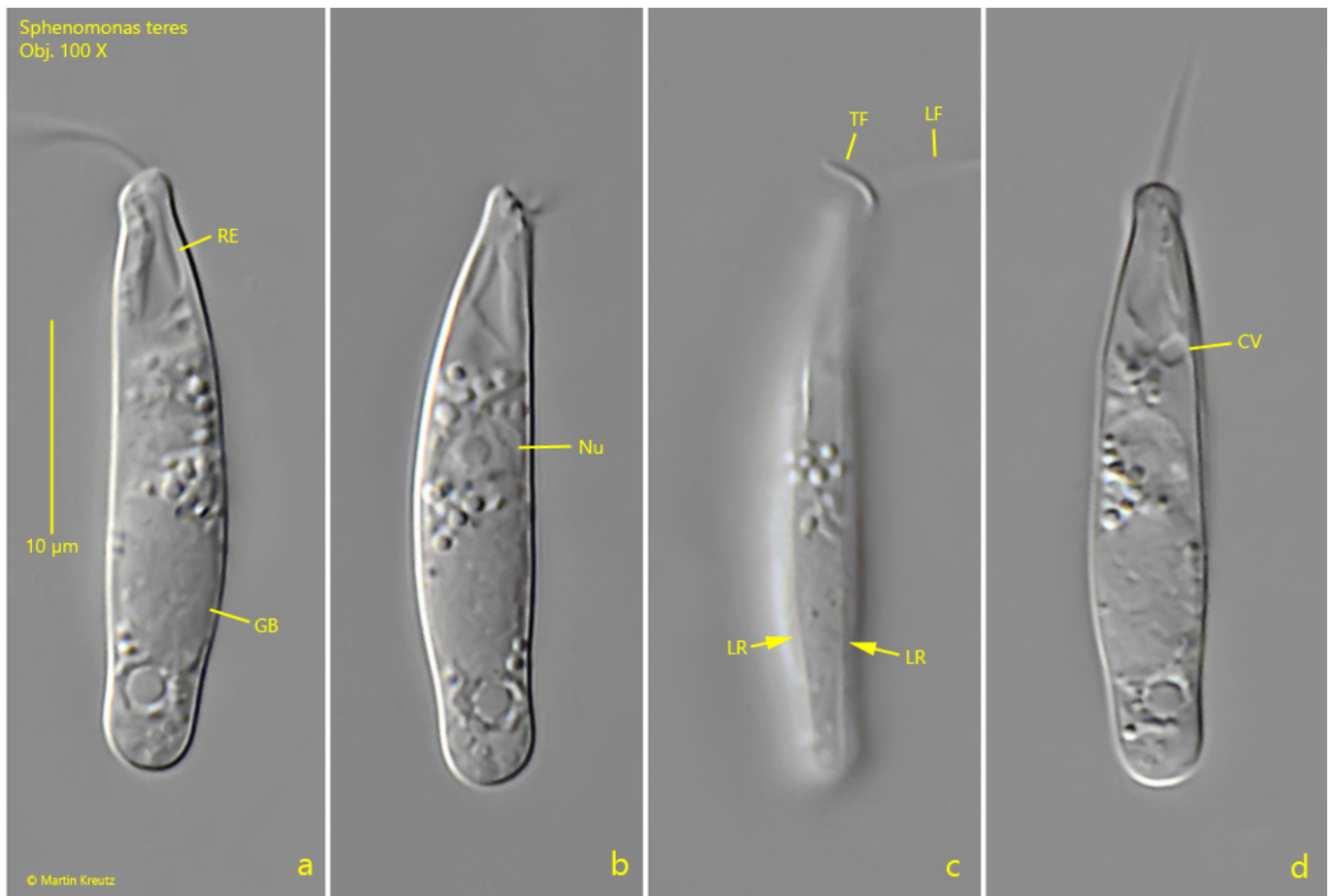


Fig. 3 a-d: *Sphenomonas teres*. L = 27 µm. A third, freely swimming specimen from left (a), from right (b, c) and from dorsal (d). Note the delicate longitudinal ridges (LR) and the gelatinous body (GB) of unknown function. CV = contractile vacuole, LF = locomotion flagellum, Nu = nucleus, RE = reservoir, TF = trailing flagellum. Obj. 100 X.