

***Squatinella mutica* (Ehrenberg, 1832)**

Most likely ID: n.a.

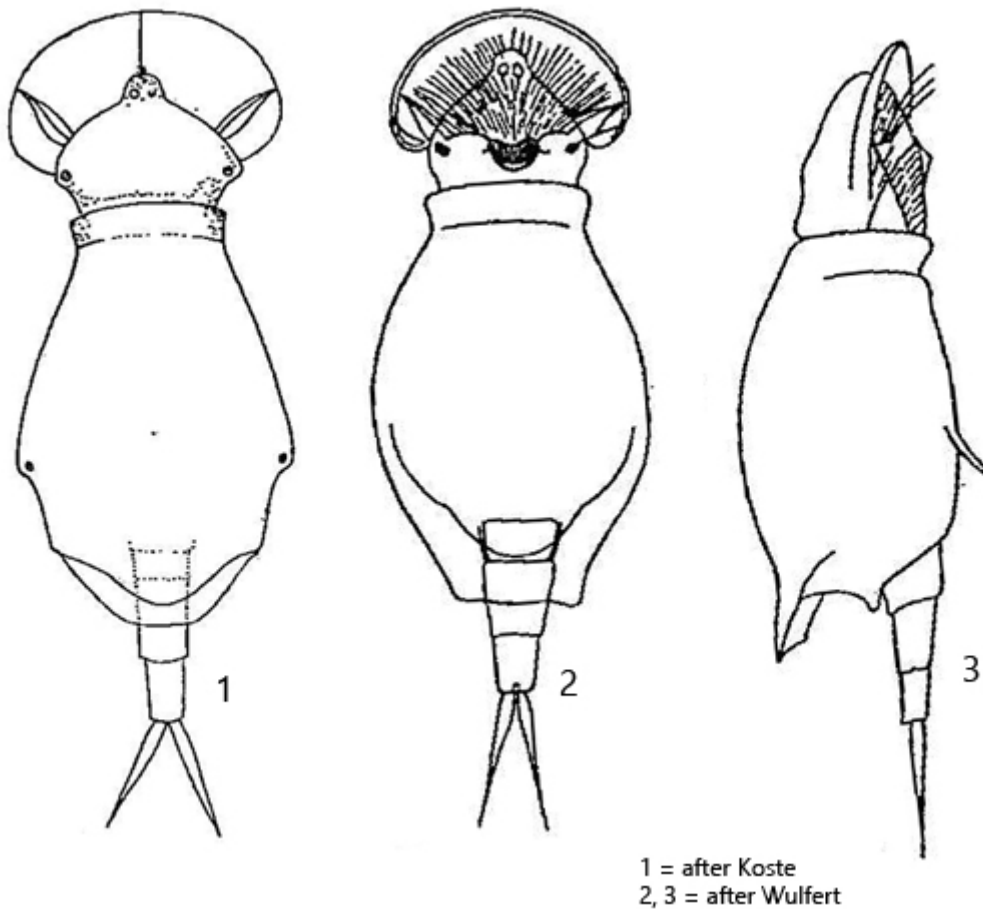
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Squatinella mutica](#)

Diagnosis:

- lorica oval with round dorsal margin
- head shield smooth and circular
- length 100–266 µm
- two eyespots with lenses
- ventral shield present
- foot with three segments
- spine on third segment of foot absent
- equal pair of slender, pointed toes



Squatinella mutica

So far I have only found *Squatinella mutica* in the Simmelried, mainly between floating and decomposing plant masses. The lorica of this form is rounded at the posterior end and has no spines or appendages. *Squatinella mutica* also lacks the spine on the dorsal side of the third segment of the foot, as is typical of other *Squatinella* species (e.g. [Squatinella rostrum](#)).

In all species of the genus *Squatinella*, the dorsal anterior margin of the lorica is elongated and widened into an almost circular shield. The wheel organ is fan-shaped. This specialization allows *Squatinella mutica* to graze surfaces on the ventral surface in a gliding manner. Small algae and bacteria serve as food. *Squatinella mutica* can usually only be viewed from the dorsal side, as it immediately turns to the glass surface on the slide. However, *Squatinella mutica* also likes to settle on the [floating coverslip](#) and the specimens can then be observed from the ventral side.

Further images and information on *Squatinella mutica*: [Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-Squatinella mutica](#)



Fig. 1 a-b: *Squatinella mutica*. L = 142 μ m (of lorica). Two focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen from dorsal. 1-3 = three segments of the foot, ES = eyespot with lens, HS = head shield, TO = toes. Obj. 100 X.

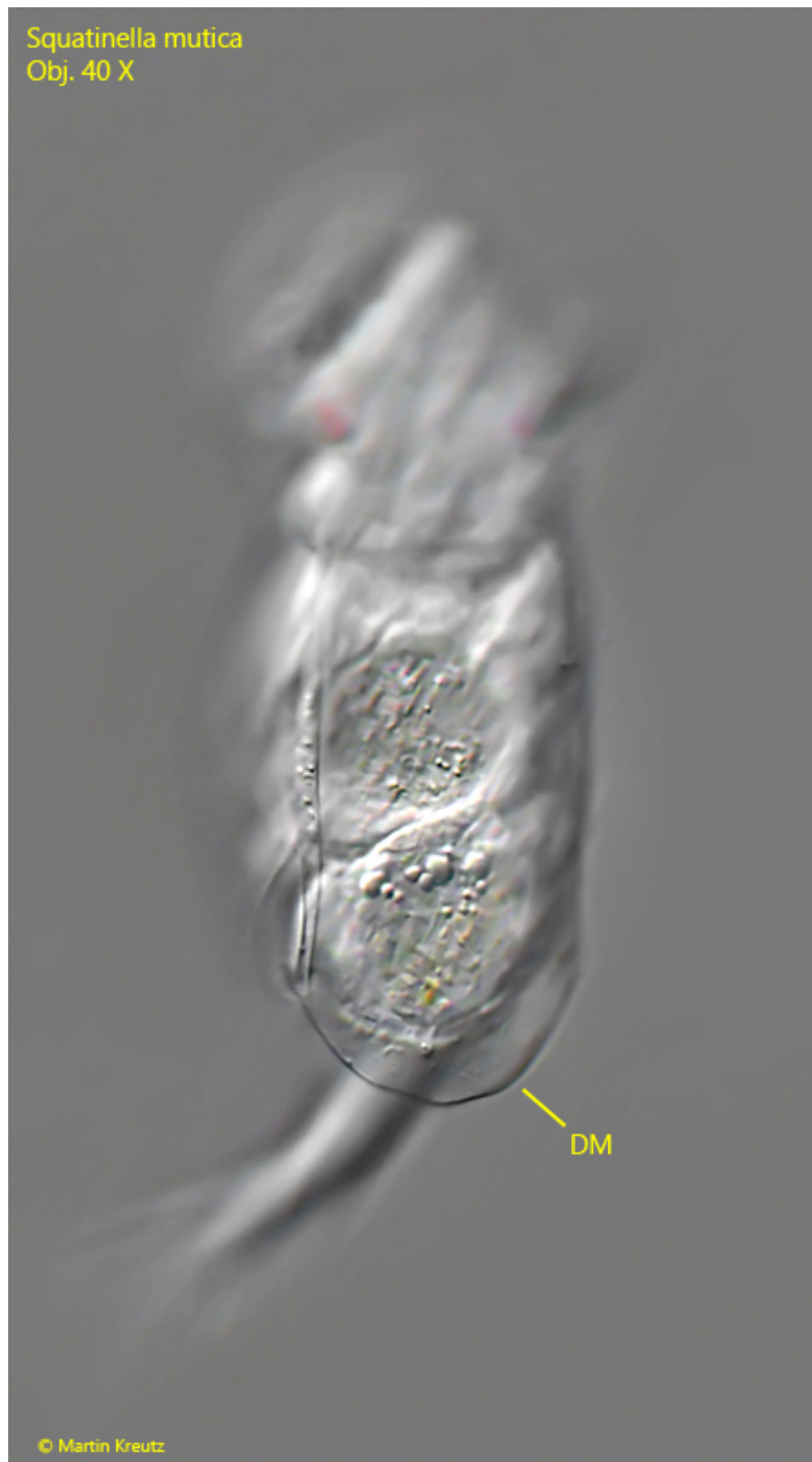


Fig. 2: *Squatinella mutica*. L = 155 μ m. Dorsal view with focal plane on the rounded dorsal margin (DM) of the lorica. Obj. 100 X.

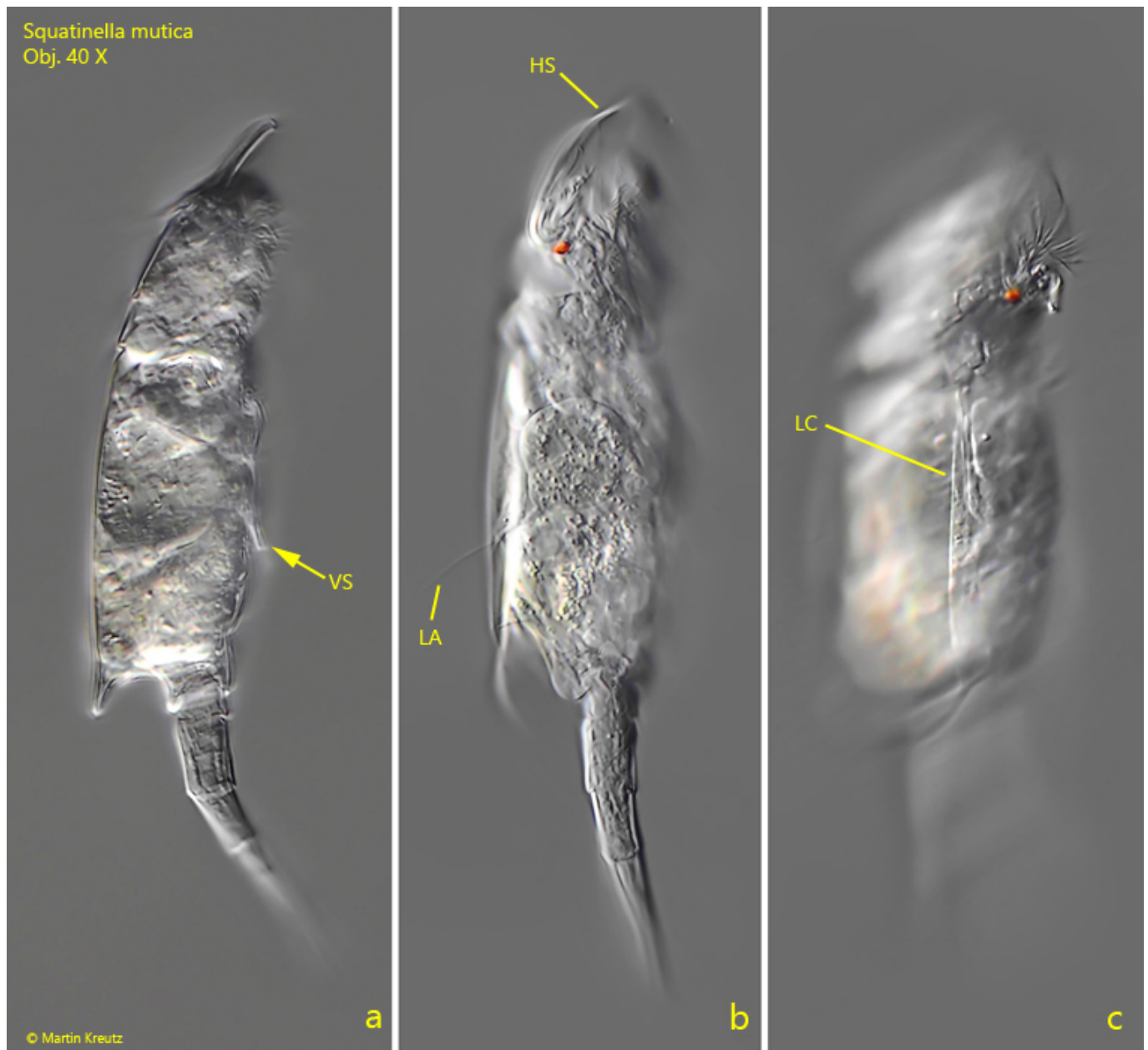


Fig. 3 a-c: *Squatinella mutica*. L = 155 μ m. Lateral view of the specimen as shown in fig. 2. Note the ventral shield (VS) and the lateral cleft (LC) of the lorica. A spine on the third segment of the foot is absent. LA = lateral antenna. Obj. 40 X.