

***Stammeridium kahli***

**(Wenzel, 1953) Foissner, 1985**

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

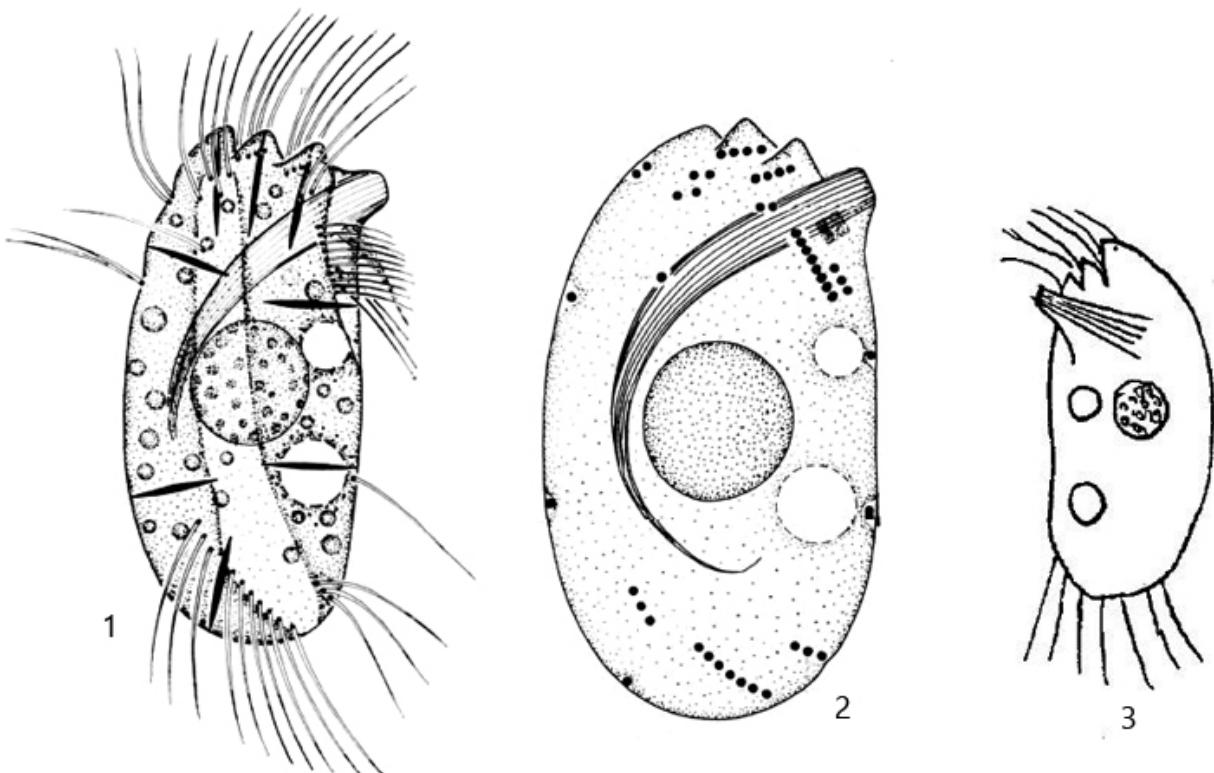
**Synonym:** n.a.

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

**Phylogenetic tree:** [\*Stammeridium kahli\*](#)

**Diagnosis:**

- cell oval to almost orthogonal, laterally flattened
- pellicle armor-like
- left margin straight, right margin convex
- three serrated projections at anterior end
- three reduced kineties on right side
- dorsally and ventrally one kinete each
- in the middle of ventral side one bristle-like cilium
- deep furrow on right side
- length 15–20 µm, width 8–12 µm
- macronucleus spherical, located centrally, with small nucleoli
- two contractile vacuoles in middle third of body
- extrusomes spindle shaped, 3 µm long
- cytoplasm clear, with few refractive globules



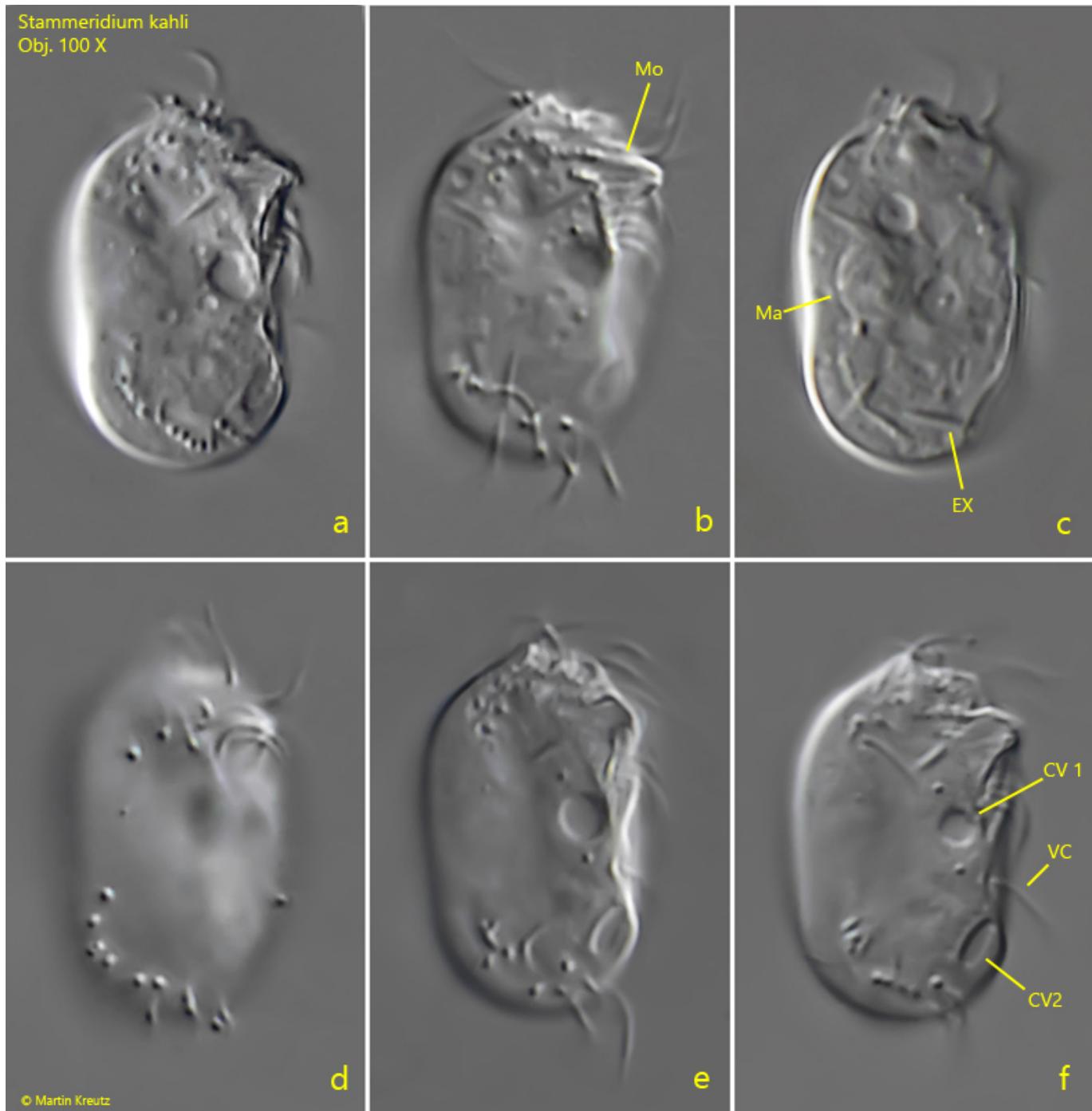
1, 2 = after Foissner  
3 = after Kahl

### Stammeridium kahli

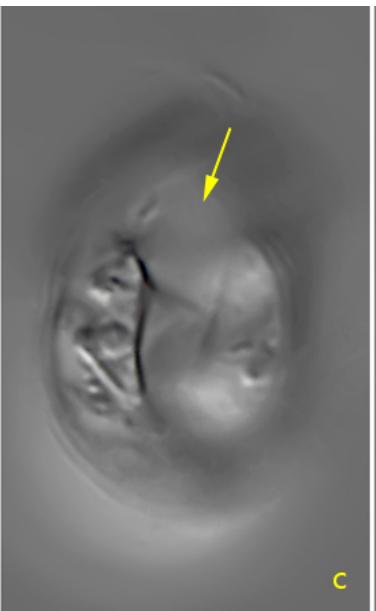
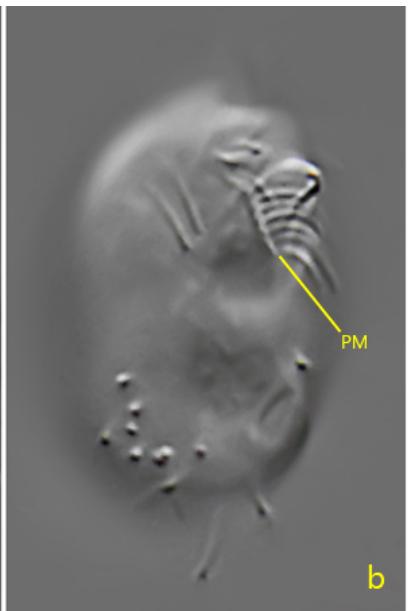
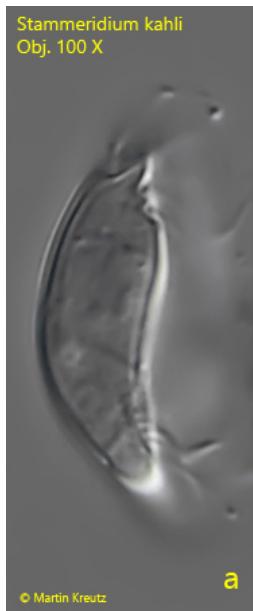
I found this very small ciliate in May 2021 in the [Simmelried](#) in the mud layer. At first I thought it was *Microthorax*, but the typical posterior mouth opening was missing. Instead this is *Stammeridium kahli*, which was newly described by Foissner in 1985. The anterior mouth opening is snout-like and continued by a basket lined with trichites. I was not able to resolve the trichites of the basket because the images shown below were taken with a dry condenser N.A. 0.9. However, further features are visible, which agree with the description and the drawings of Foissner (see above). Particularly striking, in addition to the snout-like mouth opening, are the 3 serrated projections at the anterior end (s. fig. 2 d), the single ventral cilium (s. fig. 1 f), and the furrow on the right side of the body (s. fig. 2 c). The ciliation of the right side of the body is similar to that of *Microthorax*, with interrupted rows of cilia. There is a paroral membranelle on the right margin of the mouth opening (s. fig. 2 b), as drawn by Foissner (s. above).

*Stammeridium kahli* was first described by Wenzel in 1953, but obviously Kahl found it in moss samples before and classified it as a “ciliate similar to *Microthorax scutiformis*”. Kahl could not examine this ciliate in more detail, so no exact description is available from him. However, his drawing (s. drawing 3, above) agrees in many features with the drawings of Foissner.

Stammeridium kahli  
Obj. 100 X

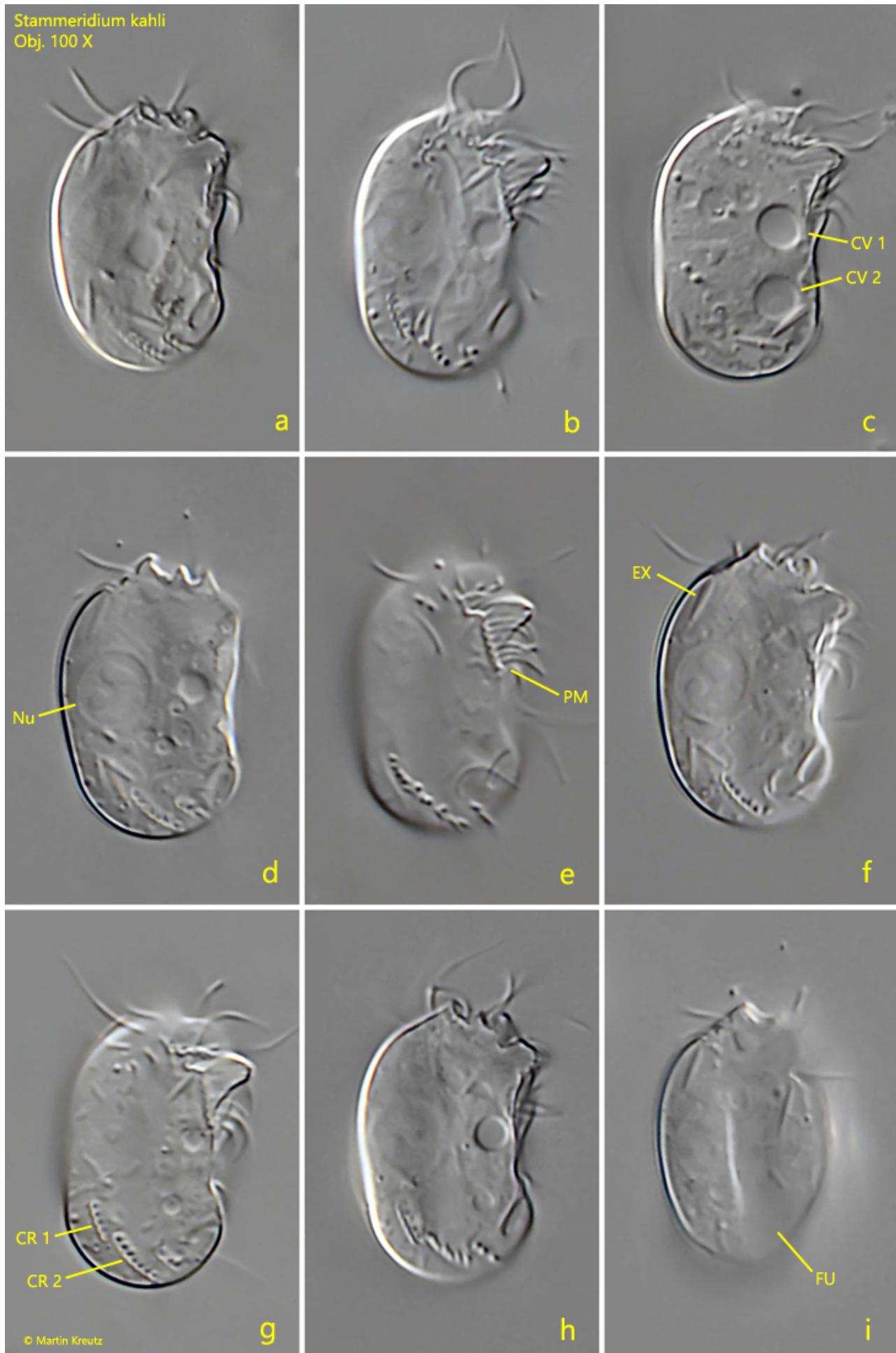


**Fig. 1 a-f:** *Stammeridium kahli*. L = 18  $\mu$ m. Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen from the right side. CV 1, CV2 = contractile vacuoles; EX = extrusomes; Ma = macronucleus; MO = mouth opening; VC = ventral single cilia. Obj. 100 X.



**Fig. 2 a-d:** *Stammeridium kahli*. L = 18  $\mu$ m. A ventral view (a) and three focal planes of the frontal view (b -d). Note the furrow on the right side (arrow, c) and the serrated projections (SP) at the anterior end (d). PM = paroral membranelle. Obj. 100 X.

*Stammeridium kahli*  
Obj. 100 X



**Fig. 3 a-i:** *Stammeridium kahli*. L = 18  $\mu\text{m}$ . Different focal planes from right of a second specimen. CV 1, CV 2 = contractile vacuoles; CR 1, CR 2 = rows of cilia; EX = extrusome; FU = furrow on right side; Ma = macronucleus; PM = paroral membranelle. Obj. 100 X.