

Staurastrum avicula* var. *exornatum

Messikommer, 1929

Most likely ID: n.a.

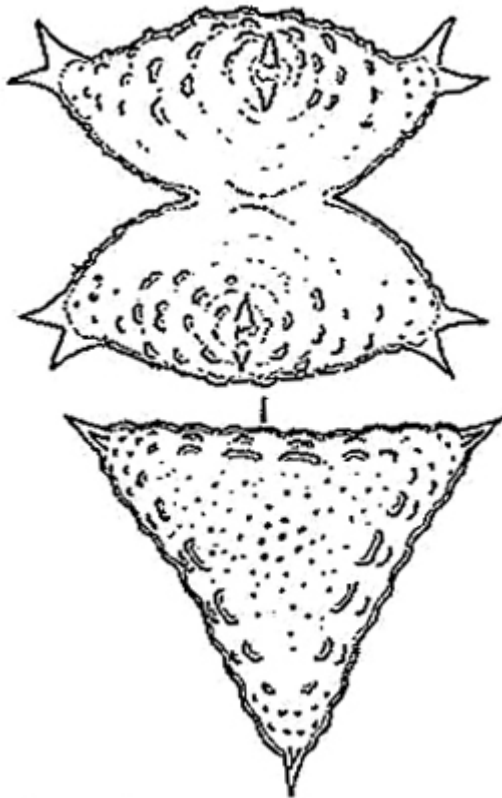
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: *Staurastrum avicula* var. *exornatum*

Diagnosis:

- cells 3-radiate
- semi-cells oval
- length 28–40 µm, width 27–40 µm
- apices slightly convex
- distal ends of arms with one pair of spines
- isthmus narrow
- sinus acutely angled, greatly expanded outward
- cell wall ornamented with elongated warts
- some warts with small teeth



after Lenzenweger

Staurastrum avicula var. *exornatum*

I find *Staurastrum avicula* var. *exornatum* in the [Simmelried](#) at intervals of several years. The species seems to be more frequent especially in the summer months.

The species is easily recognizable by the typical pair of short spines at the end of the arms. These are oriented parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cell. As a result they are always clearly visible in a single focal plane (s. figs. 1 a and 2 a). The sinus of *Staurastrum avicula* var. *exornatum* is widely open. In contrast to the typical form, *Staurastrum avicula* var. *exornatum* has elongated, elliptically shaped warts that cover the cell wall. The two ends of the warts rise to very short spines, which can be clearly seen when focusing through the cell.

Lenzenweger (1997) suspects that these elongated warts, as a distinguishing feature from the typical form *Staurastrum avicula*, possess a dubious taxonomic value. Nevertheless, this variety has been taxonomically recognized.

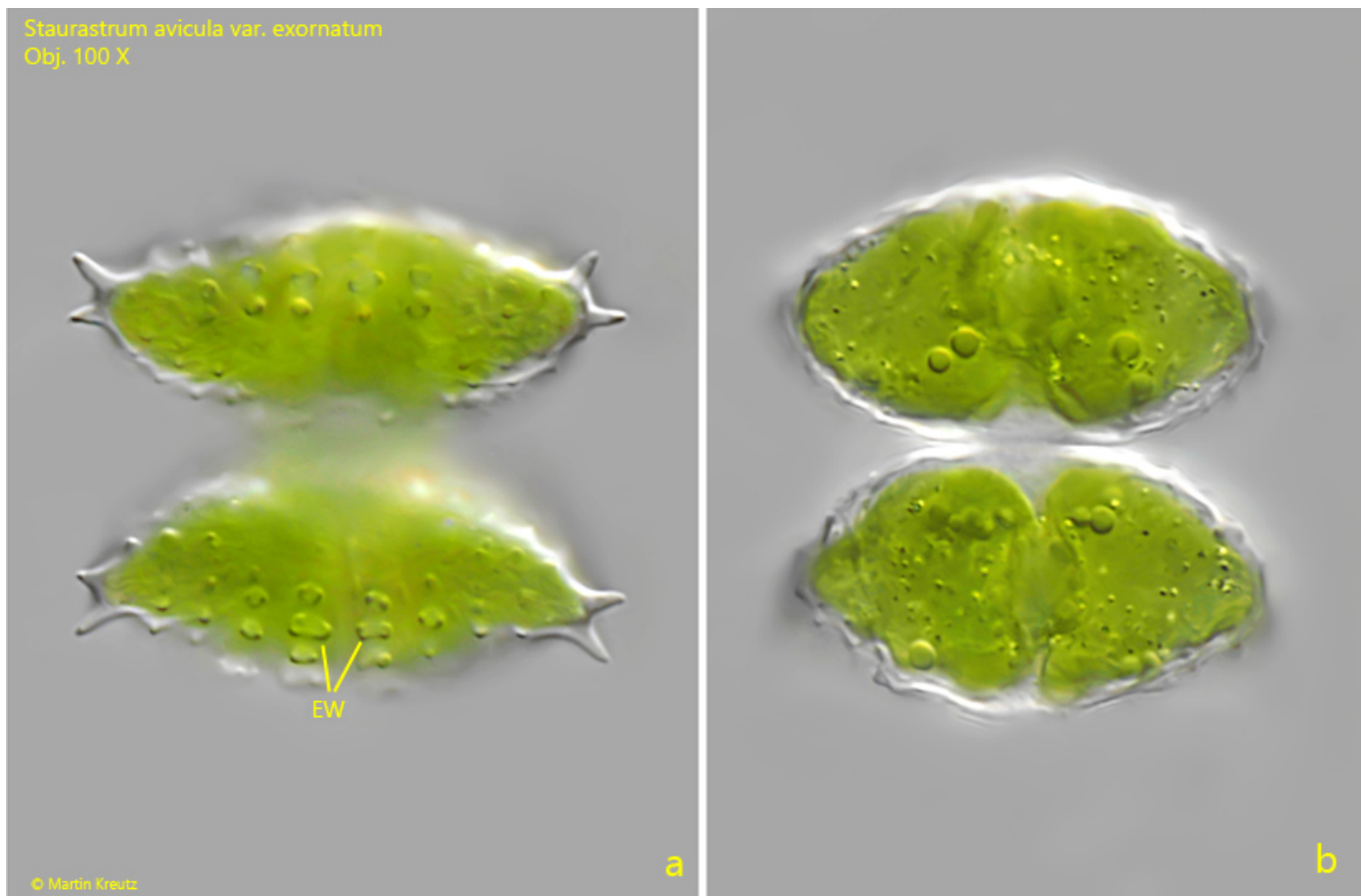


Fig. 1 a-b: *Staurastrum avicula* var. *exornatum*. L = 37 μ m. Two focal planes of a specimen found in July 2025. Note the elongated warts (EW) covering the cell wall. Obj. 100 X.

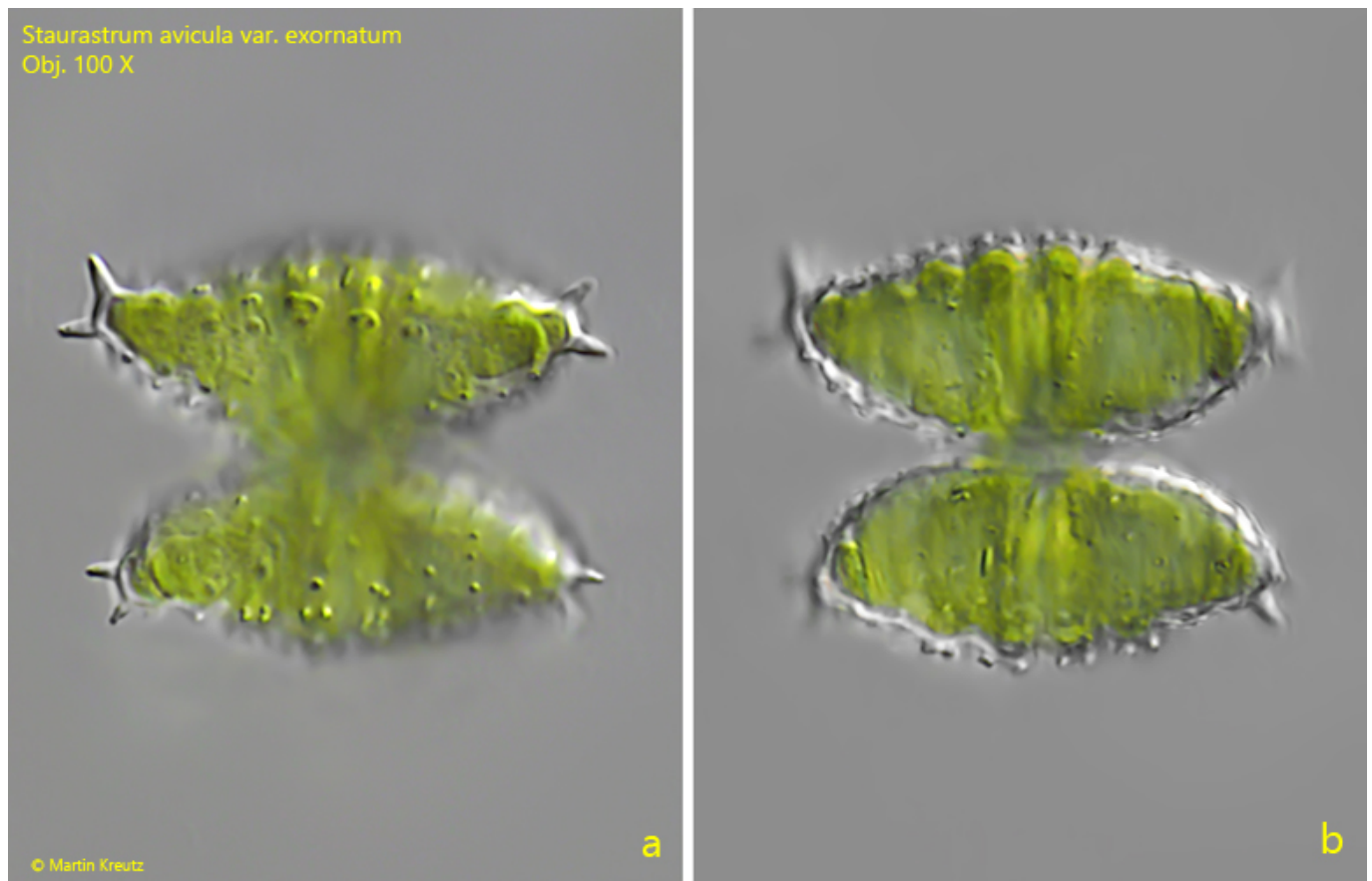


Fig. 2 a-b: *Staurastrum avicula* var. *exornatum*. L = 28 μ m. A second specimen found in July 2016. Obj. 100 X.