

***Staurastrum simonyi* var. *sparsiaculeatum***

**(Schmidle) Hirano, 1953**

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

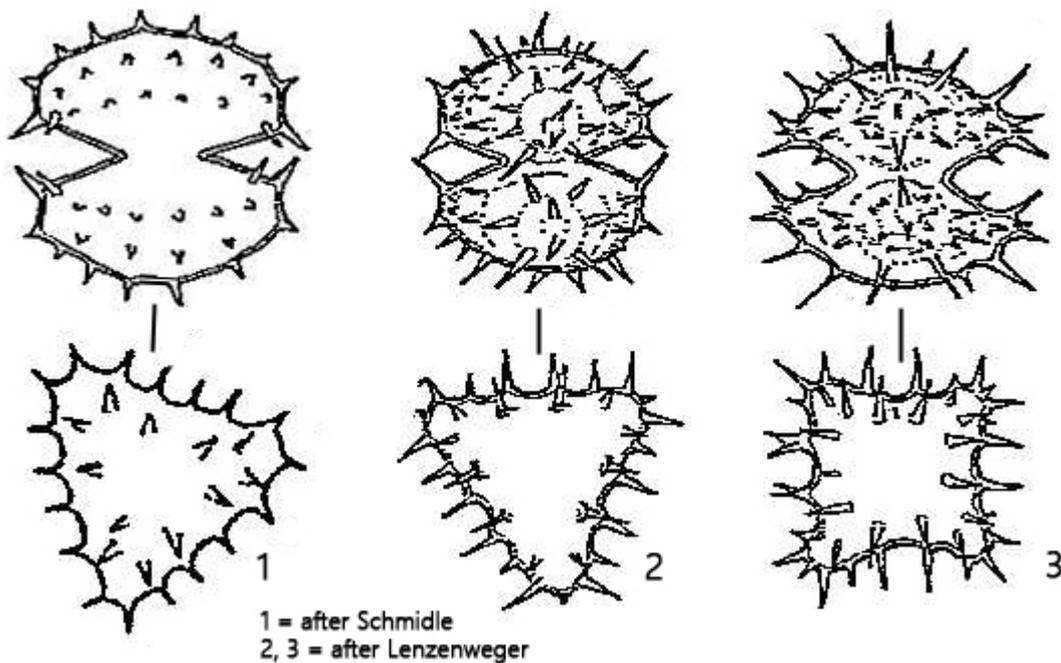
**Synonym:** *Staurastrum sparseaculeatum*

**Sampling location:** [Paradieswiesen \(Austria\)](#)

**Phylogenetic tree:** [Staurastrum simonyi var. sparsiaculeatum](#)

**Diagnosis:**

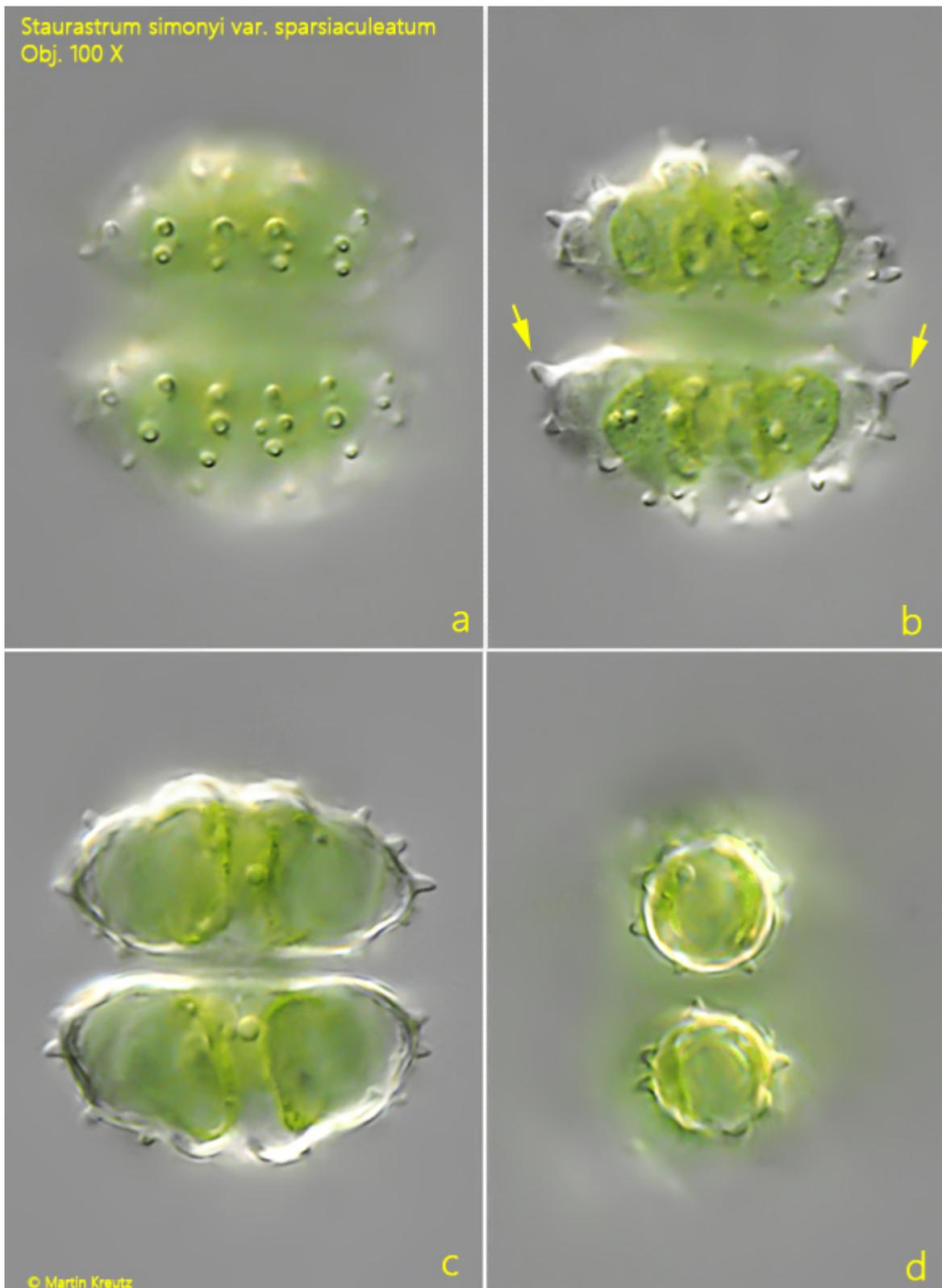
- cells about as long as broad
- semi-cell elliptic
- apices convex
- length 20–29  $\mu\text{m}$ , width 21–30  $\mu\text{m}$
- sinus open and acute angled
- lateral angles with with two spines directed toward cell equator
- cell wall with 2–3 horizontal rows of spines
- in apical view 3 axis, sometimes 4



*Staurastrum simonyi* var. *sparsiaculeatum*

So far I have found *Staurastrum simonyi* var. *sparsiaculeatum* only once in June 2024 in the [Paradieswiesen](#) in Austria. This desmid algae seems to be generally rare. Apparently, Lenzenweger (1997) also found specimens only once in samples from Obergurgl (Austria).

*Staurastrum simonyi* var. *sparsiaculeatum* shows a high degree of variability, which does not make identification any easier. The spines on the cell surface can vary in length. My variety is most similar to the drawings by Schmidle (s. drawing 1 above), which shows a form with short spines. The most striking features are the horizontal rows of spines (s. fig. 1 a) and the spines on the lateral angles, which are always directed towards the cell equator (s. fig. 1 b).



**Fig. 1 a-d:** *Staurastrum simonyi* var. *sparsiaculeatum*. L = 26  $\mu$ m. Different focal planes of a specimen with short spines. Note the spines on the lateral angles, which are directed towards the cell equator (arrows). Obj. 100 X.