Staurastrum simonyi Heimerl, 1891

Most likely ID: n.a.

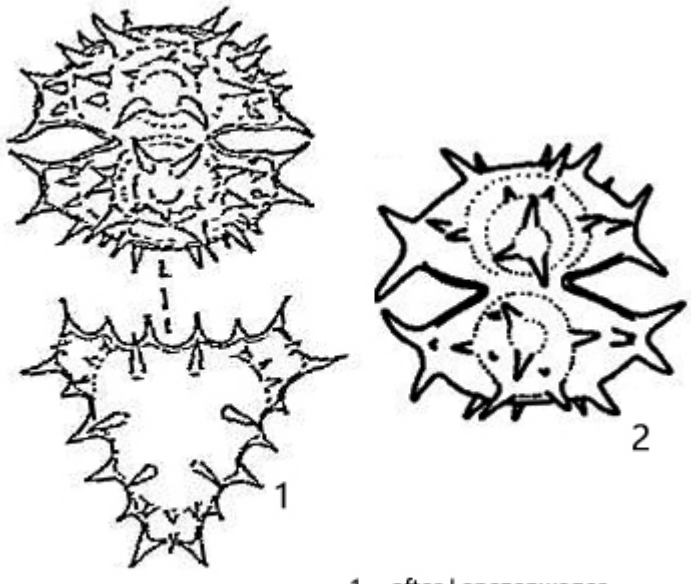
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Schwemm Moor (Austria)

Phylogenetic tree: *Staurastrum simonyi*

Diagnosis:

- cells 3-radiate
- semi-cells elliptical
- length 19–25 µm, width 18–26 µm (excluding spines)
- apices slightly convex
- cell wall with concentric rows of granules
- basal margin almost straight
- apical margins with 4 spines
- lateral margins with 2–4 spines
- lateral angles with each two large spines



1 = after Lenezenweger
2 = after Williamson

Staurastrum simonyi

So far, I have only found *Staurastrum simonyi* in the Schwemm Moor in Austria. Despite its small size, the species is conspicuous due to its spines. The larger spines on the lateral angles of the semi-cells dominate. The apical spines are always simple.

Staurastrum simonyi differs from the variety *Staurastrum simonyi* var. *sparsiaculeatum* in the absence of horizontal rows of short spines near the base of the semi-cells. The similar species *Staurastrum aculeatum* is about twice as large (48–55 µm) and the apices are only very short-spined and flat.

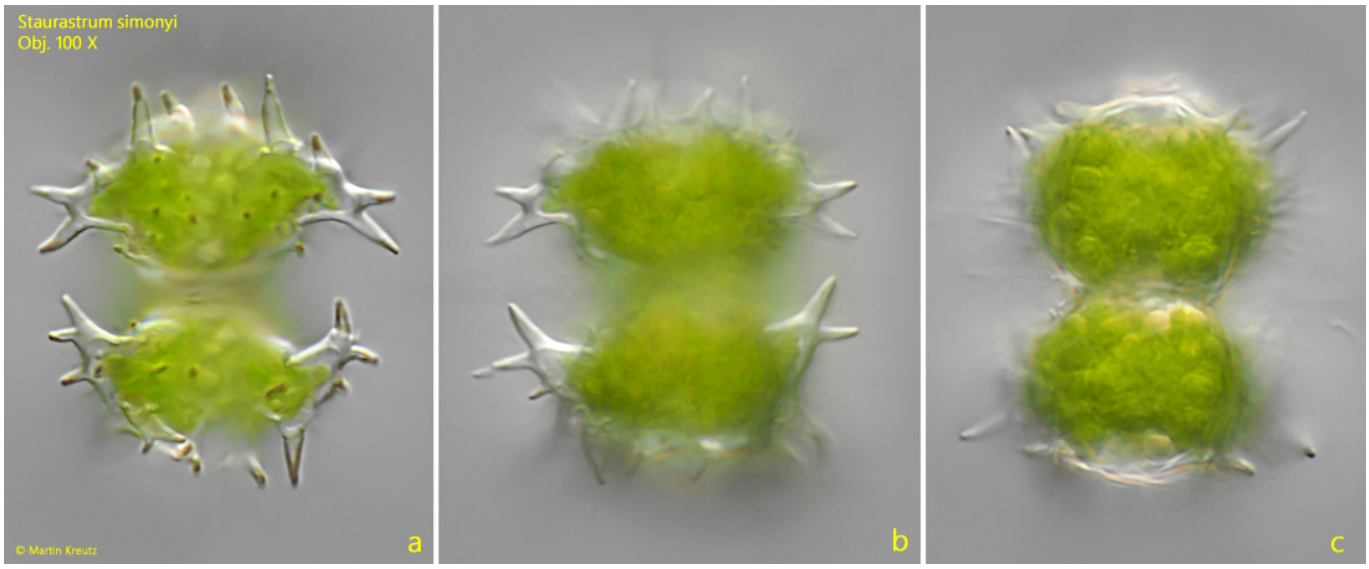


Fig. 1 a-c: *Staurastrum simonyi*. L = 26 µm (excluding spines). Three focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen. Obj. 100 X.

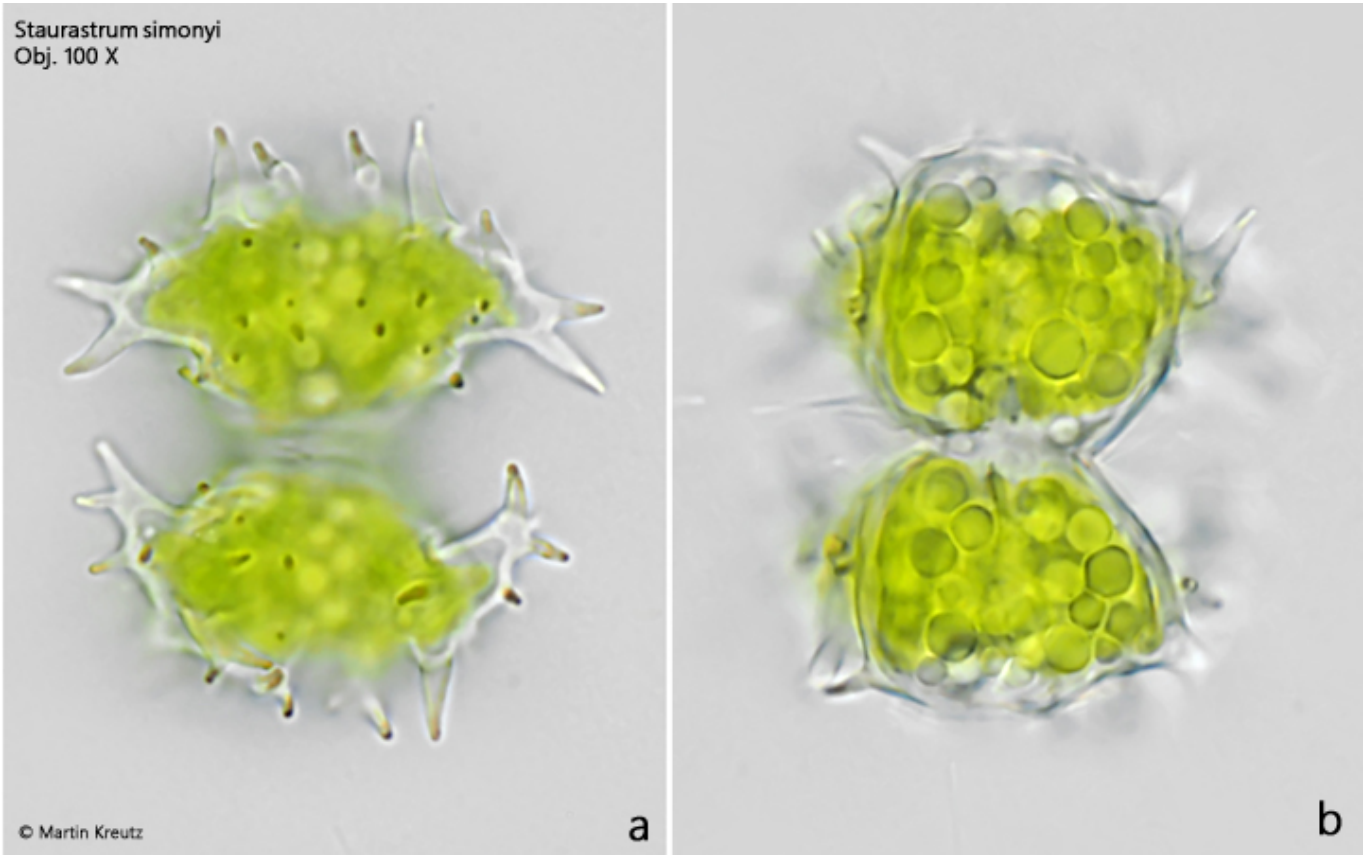


Fig. 2 a-b: *Staurastrum simonyi*. L = 26 µm (excluding spines). The same specimen as shown in fig. 1 a-c in brightfield illumination. Obj. 100 X.