Testudinella parva var. bidentata Ternetz, 1892

Most likely ID: n.a.

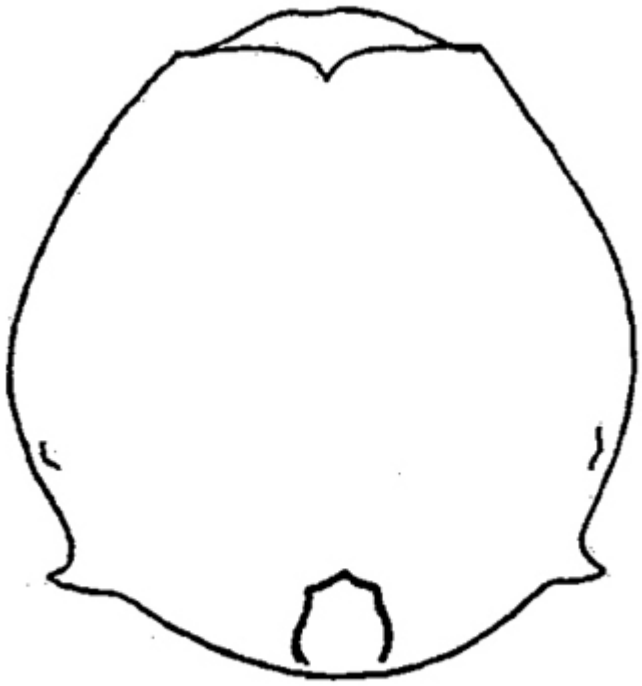
Synonym: *Testudinella bidentata*, *Pterodina bidentata*, *Testudinella parva*

Sampling location: Hagstaffel pond, Ulmisried, Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: ***Testudinella parva var. bidentata***

Diagnosis:

- lorica almost circular, dorso-ventral flattened
- body transparent, length 115–120 µm, width 105–110 µm
- two lateral projections of the lorica in the posterior third
- polygonally shaped foot opening ventral at posterior end
- foot annulated, retractile, distal end with cilia
- corona is a band of cilia
- two conspicuous retractor muscles
- two eyespots



after Ternetz

Testudinella parva var. bidentata

I have found *Testudinella parva var. bidentata* both in the plankton from Hagstaffel pond and among floating plants in Ulmisried and Simmelried. The species is much rarer than the related species *Testudinella patina*. *Testudinella parva var. bidentata* is easily recognized by the two short spines, which are located laterally in the posterior third of the lorica.

The taxonomy of *Testudinella parva var. bidentata* is somewhat unclear in my opinion. The valid name should be *Testudinella parva*. However, the form *Testudinella parva* has been described without the lateral spines. Therefore, it is currently unclear to me how to distinguish between *Testudinella parva var. bidentata* and *Testudinella parva* with the same name. Therefore I have kept the name *Testudinella parva var. bidentata* originally given by Ternetz.

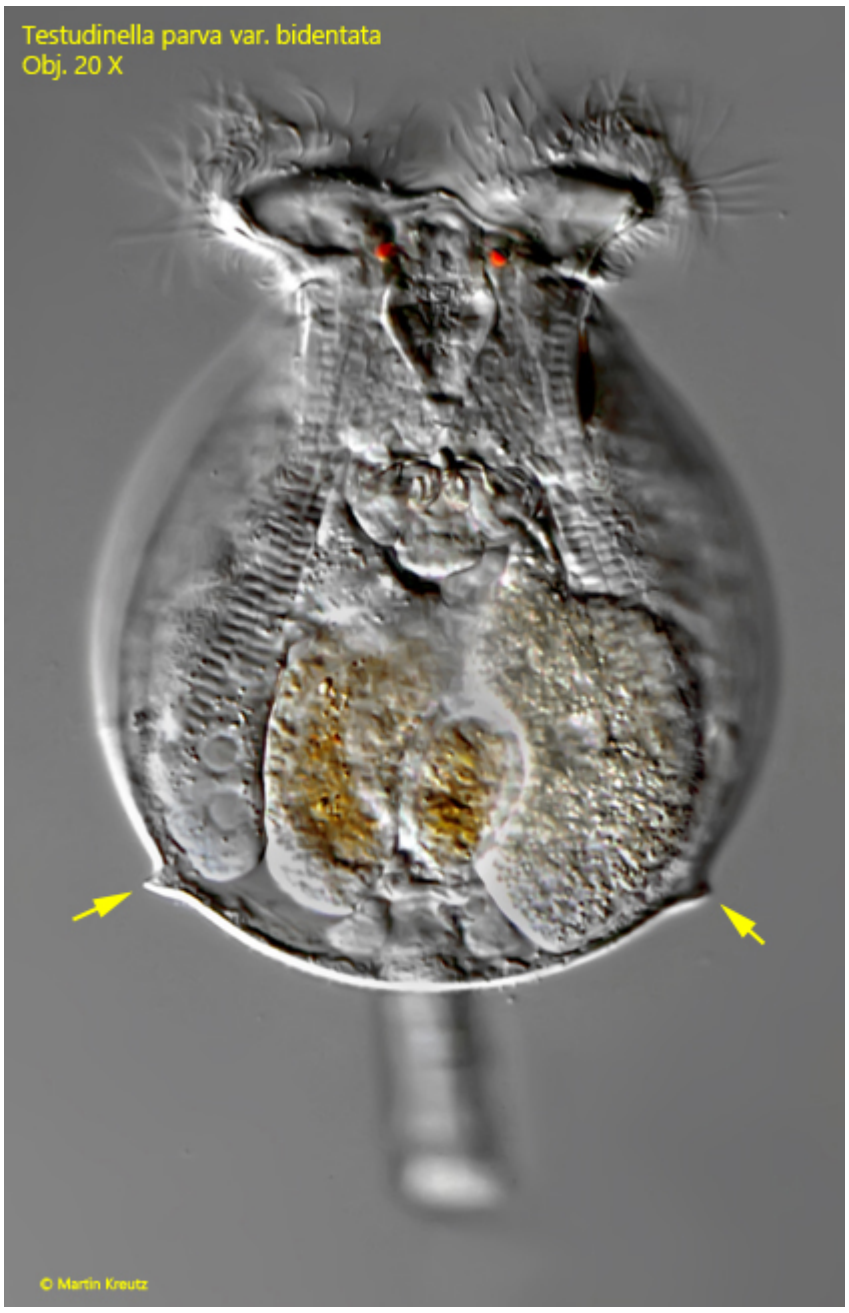


Fig. 1: *Testudinella parva var. bidentata*. L = 172 µm (including corona and foot). A freely swimming specimen. Note the two lateral spines in the posterior third of the lorica (arrows). Obj. 20 X.



Fig. 2: *Testudinella parva var. bidentata*. L = 160 (including corona and foot). A slightly squashed second specimen. Obj. 40 X.

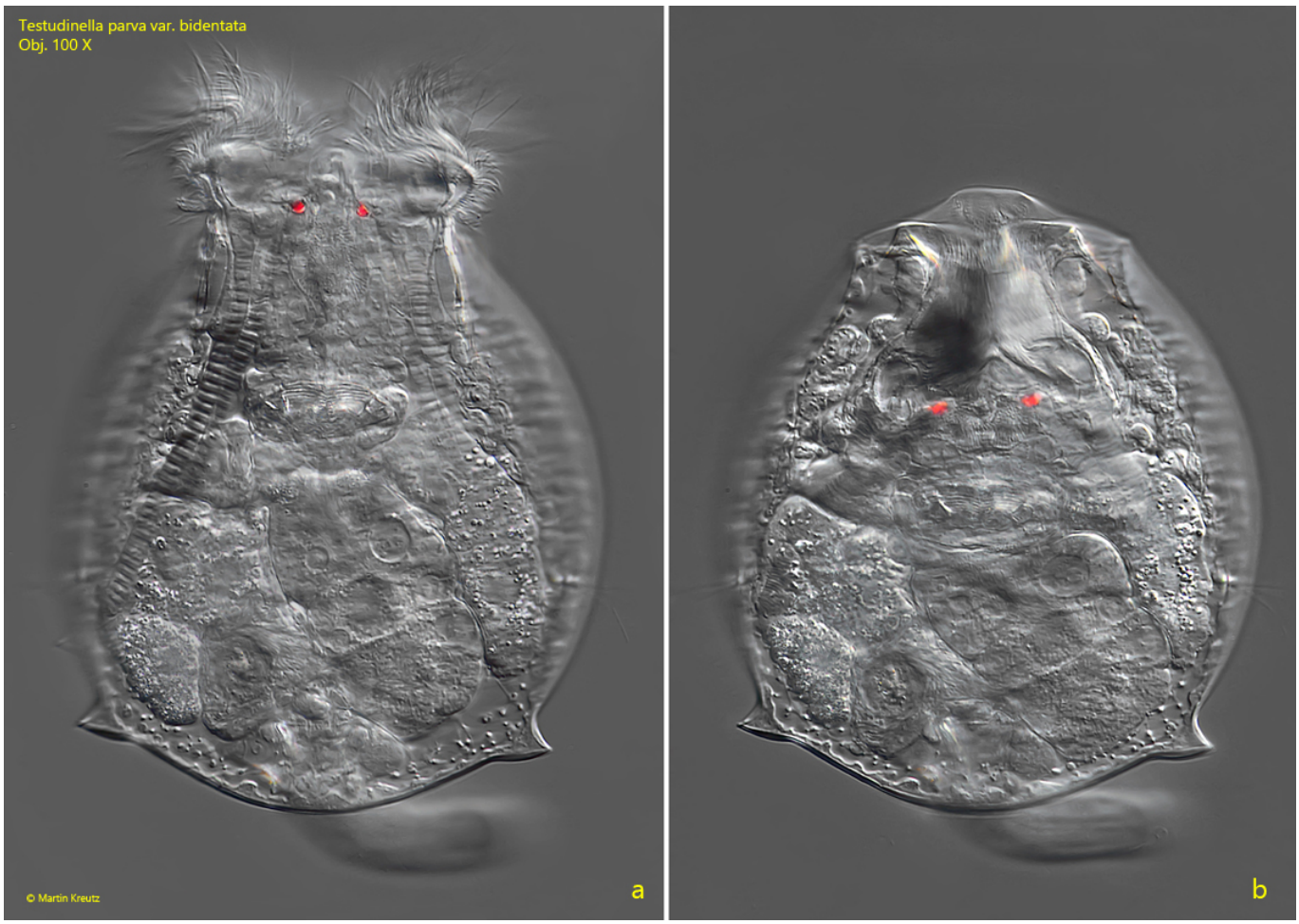


Fig. 3 a-b: *Testudinella parva var. bidentata*. A fully extended (a) and a retracted specimen (b). The lorica of the retracted specimen has a length of 112 µm. Obj. 100 X.

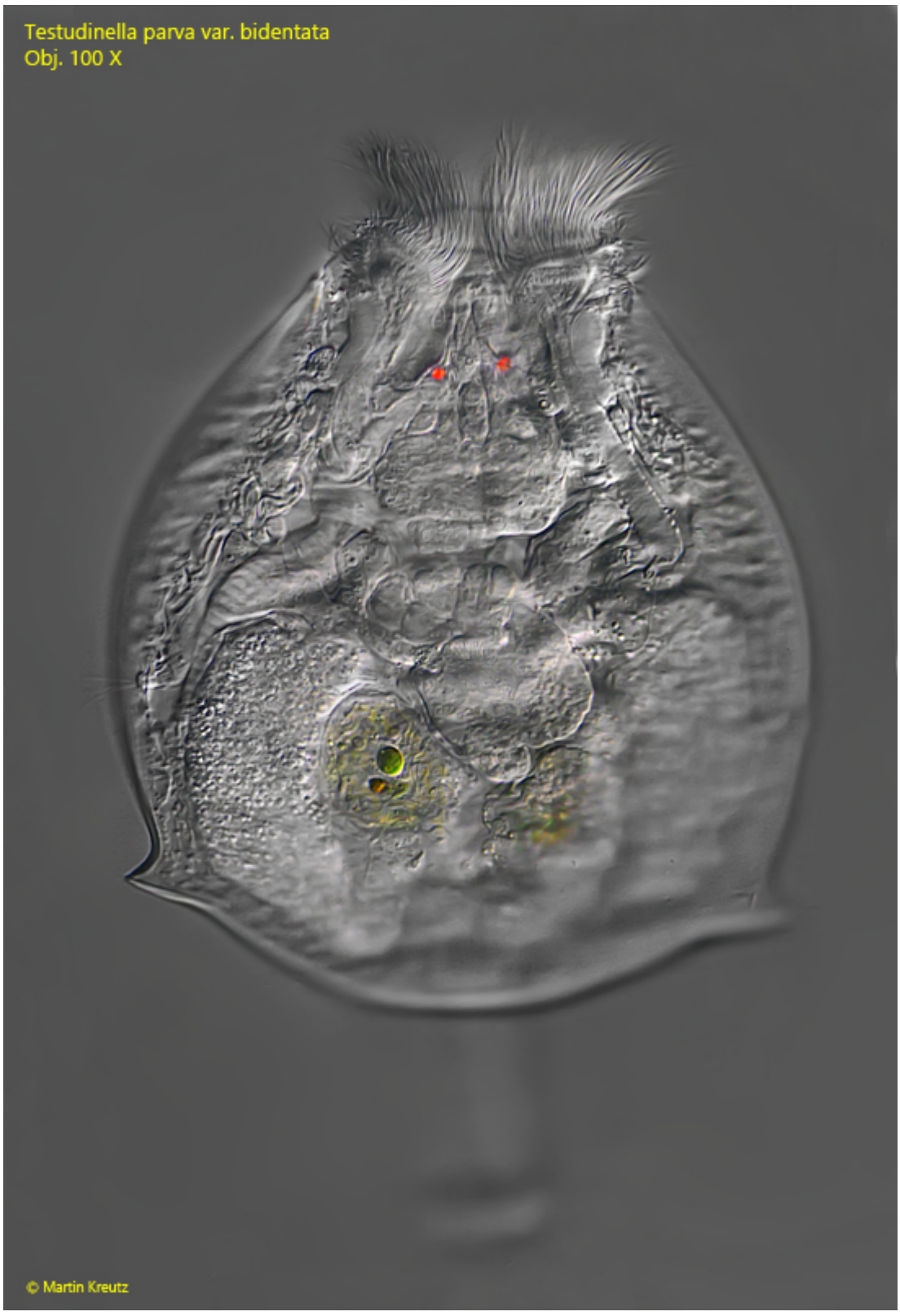


Fig. 4: *Testudinella parva var. bidentata*. L = 138 (including corona and foot). A half extended specimen. Obj. 100 X.