Thecamoeba terricola

(Greef, 1866) Lepsi, 1960

Most likely ID: n.a.

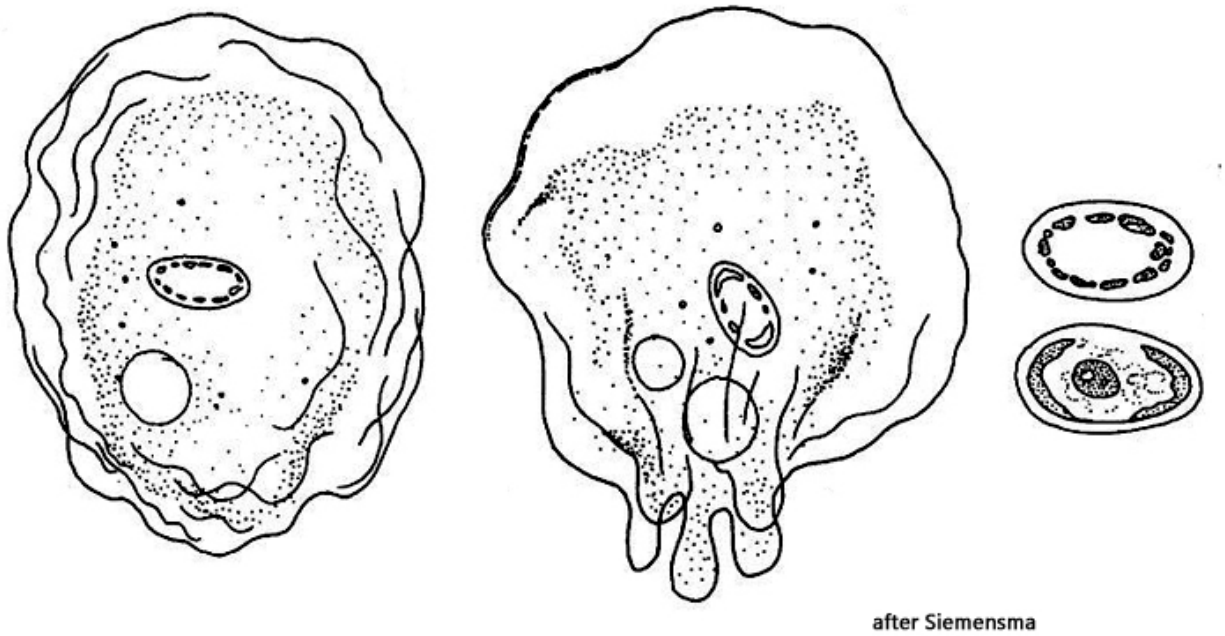
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Moss

Phylogenetic tree: n.a.

Diagnosis:

- slow monopodial movement, surface wrinkled
- cytoplasm hyaline and refractive
- length 60–200 µm, sometimes larger
- nucleus ellipsiod (14–31 µm) with parietal nucleolar bodies
- one contractile vacuole
- uroid strongly wrinkled, in parallel folds or with hyaline knobs



Thecamoeba terricola

I found *Thecamoeba terricola* in a moss sample that I had doused with tap water. After 2 weeks in a closed petri dish, a large population of *Thecamoeba terricola* had formed.

Thecamoeba terricola is one of the larger members of the genus *Thecamoeba*. In my population the specimens were mostly larger than 100 µm. The free-flowing form (s. figs. 1 a-f and 3 a-f) often shows a terminal uroid, which appears either strongly folded or short, knob-like protrusions. The surface shows no or inconspicuous longitudinal folds. An essential feature of *Thecamoeba terricola* is the ellipsoidal nucleus with a parietal nucleolus, which is either present in small pieces (s. fig. 2) or in cup-shaped pieces (s. fig. 4).

More images and information on *Thecamoeba terricola*: Ferry Siemensma-Microworld-*Thecamoeba terricola*

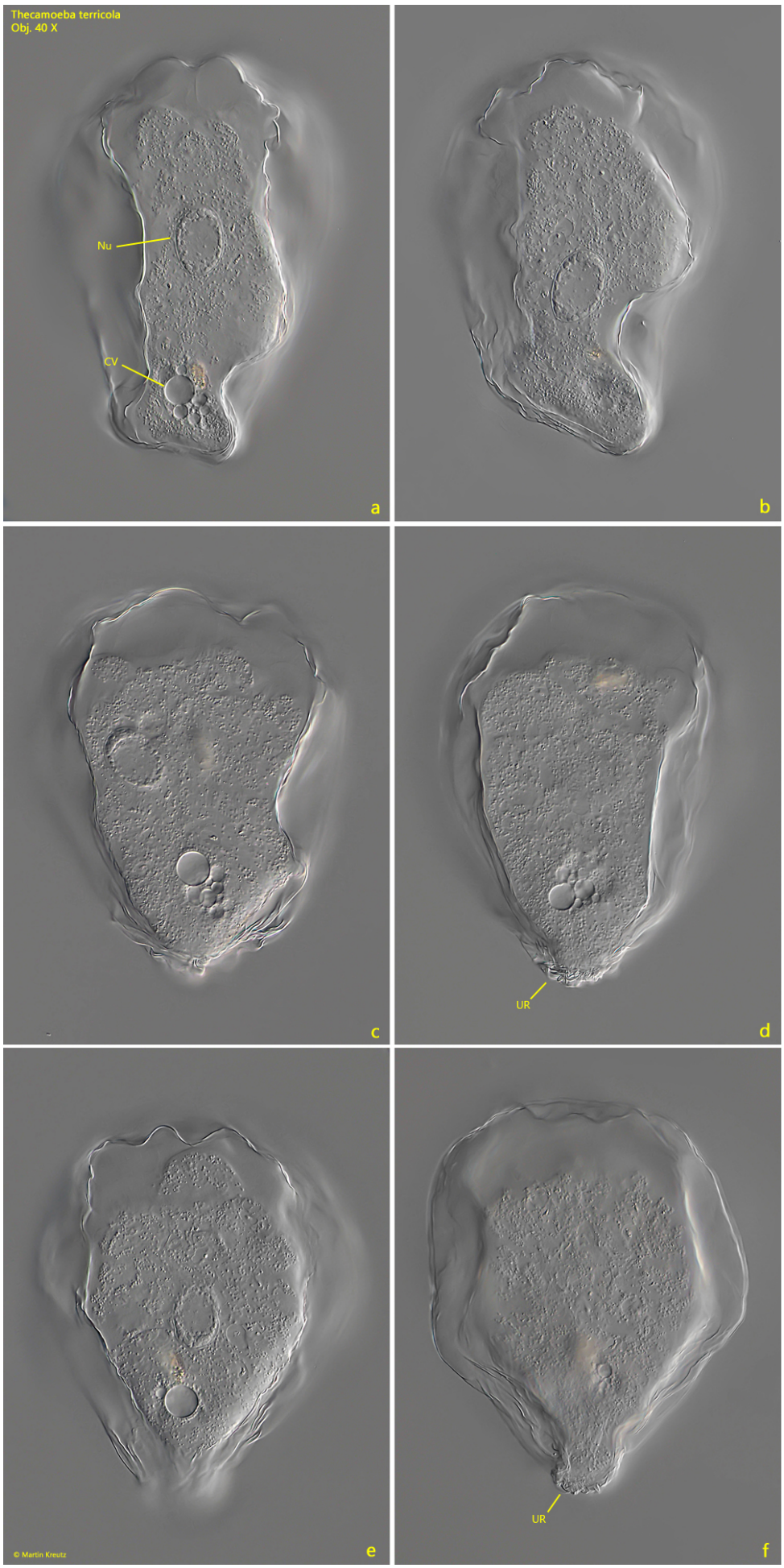

Thecamoeba terricola
Obj. 40 X
Nu
CV
a
b
c
UR
d
e
UR
f
© Martin Kreutz

Fig. 1 a-f: *Thecamoeba terricola*. L = 190 µm. A free-flowing specimen. CV = contractile vacuole, Nu = nucleus, UR = uroid. Obj. 40 X.

Fig. 2: *Thecamoeba terricola*. The nucleus (Nu) of the specimen as shown in fig. 1 a-f with parietal arranged nucleoar bodies (Nuc). Obj. 100 X.

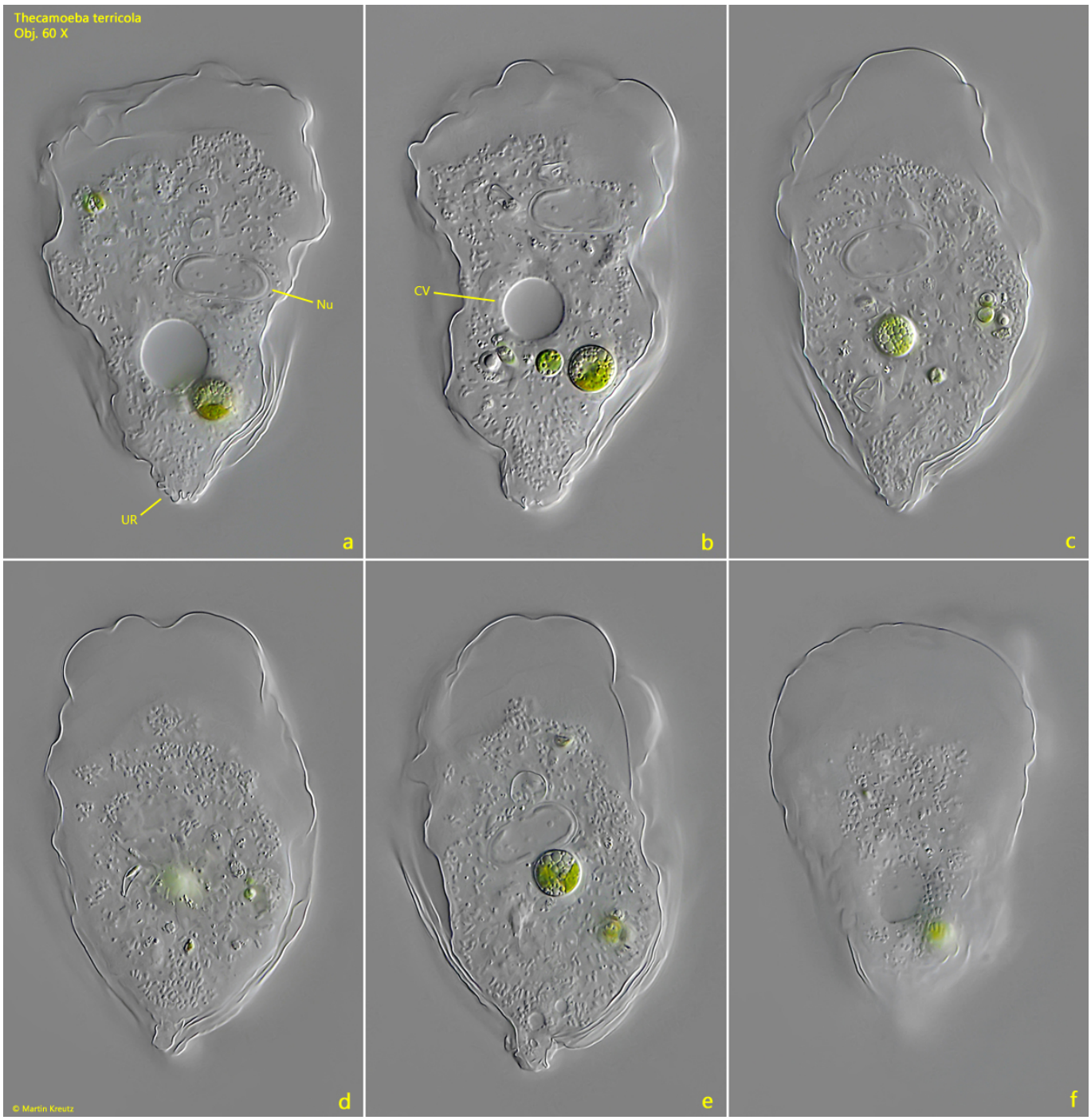


Fig. 3 a-f: *Thecamoeba terricola*. L = 100 µm. A second, smaller specimen. CV = contractile vacuole, Nu = nucleus, UR = uroid. Obj. 60 X.

Thecamoeba terricola
Obj. 100 X
Nu
Nuc
© Martin Kreutz

Fig. 4: *Thecamoeba terricola*. L = 100 µm. The nucleus (Nu) of the specimen as shown in fig. 3 a-f with parietal arranged nucleoar bodies (Nuc). Obj. 100 X.