Urotricha ovata Kahl, 1926

Most likely ID: n.a.

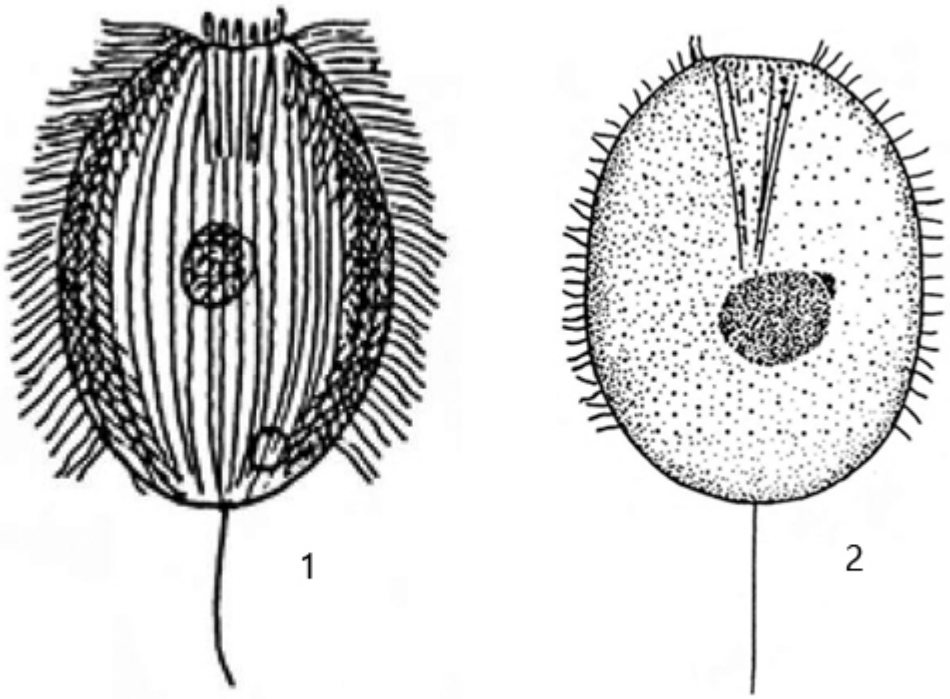
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Ulmisried, Bussenried, Bündtlisried, Mühlhalden pond, Purren pond, Mainau pond, Simmelried

Phylogenetic tree: *Urotricha ovata*

Diagnosis:

- body ellipsoidal, sometimes cylindrical
- length 38–53 µm
- 19–27 longitudinal rows of cilia
- cytopharynx apical
- fringe of scattered, inconspicuous extrusomes
- macronucleus globular with an adjacent micronucleus
- posterior sixth of body naked
- one caudal cilium
- movement jumping and spinning



1 = after Kahl
2 = after Groliere

Urotricha ovata

Urotricha ovata is a widespread ciliate, which I could detect in almost all my localities. Especially in old samples with decaying plant masses it is often found.

It is easy to confuse *Urotricha ovata* with the similar species *Urotricha armata*. The latter, however, has a dense fringe of extrusomes arranged in parallel to each other. In *Urotricha ovata*, the extrusomes are scattered under the pellicle and are not arranged in parallel (s. figs. 2 a and 2 b). In addition, the number of longitudinal rows of cilia in *Urotricha armata* is much higher (35–51) than in *Urotricha ovata*, where there are only 19–27 rows (s. fig. 1 b).



Fig. 1 a-b: *Urotricha ovata*. L = 43 µm. Two focal planes of a freely swimming specimen. Note the longitudinal rows of cilia (CR). This specimen has 24 rows of cilia. CC = caudal cilium, CV = contractile vacuole, CP = cytopharynx, Ma = macronucleus, Mi = micronucleus. Obj. 60 X.

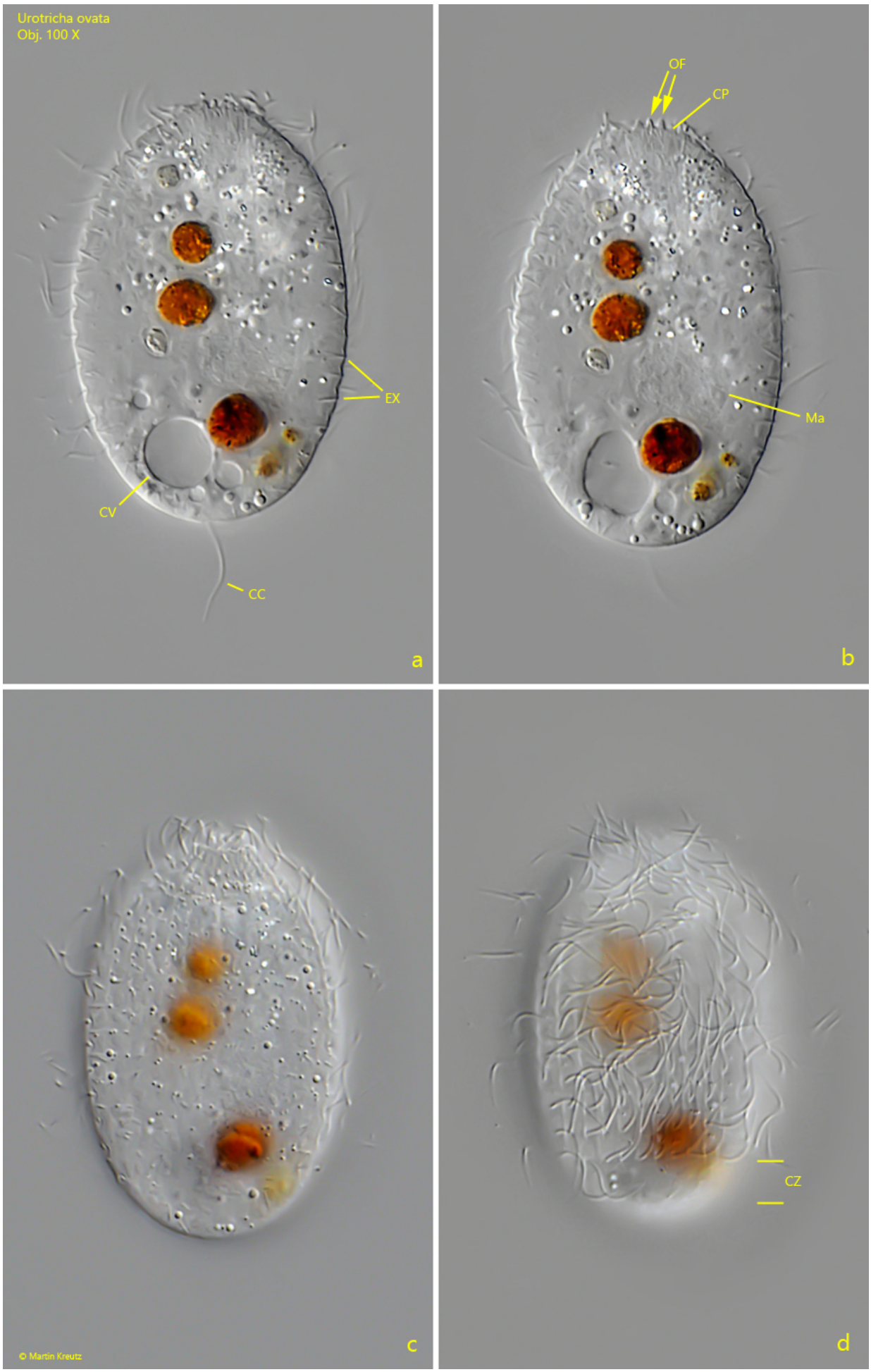

Urotricha ovata
Obj. 100 X
EX
CV
CC
a
OF
CP
Ma
b
c
© Martin Kreutz
CZ
d

Fig. 2 a-d: *Urotricha ovata*. L = 43 µm. Four focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen. Note that the posterior sixth of the body is a cilia-free zone (CZ). CC = caudal cilium, CV = contractile vacuole, CP = cytopharynx, EX = extrusomes, Ma = macronucleus, OF = oral flaps. Obj. 100 X.

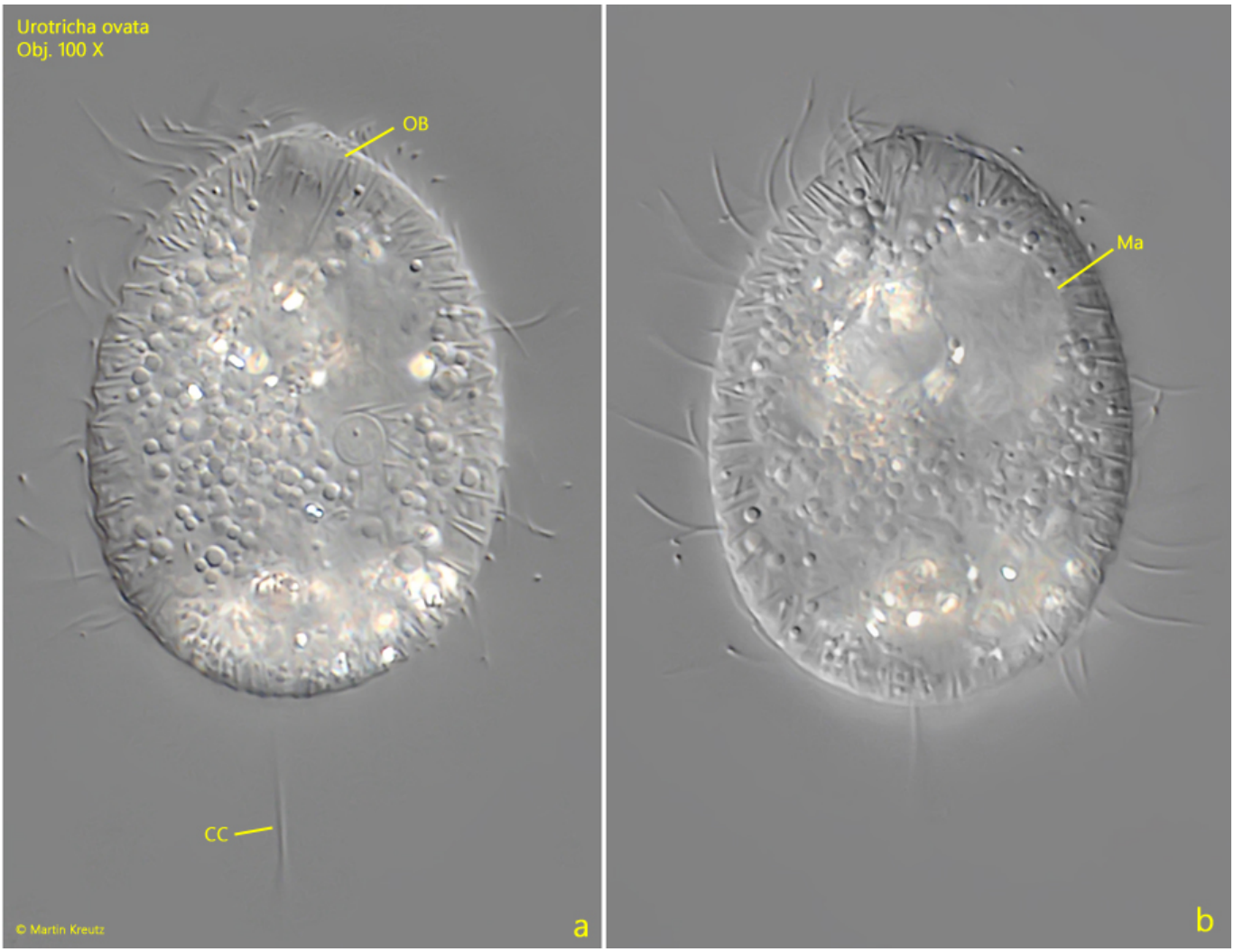


Fig. 3 a-b: *Urotricha ovata*. L = 42 µm. Two focal planes of a slightly squashed specimen. CC = caudal cilium, Ma = macronucleus, OB = oral basket. Obj. 100 X.