Woronichina naegeliana (Unger) Elenkin, 1933

Most likely ID: n.a.

Synonym: Coelosphaerium naegelianum

Sampling location: Pond of the convent Hegne

Phylogenetic tree: Woronichinia naegeliana

Diagnosis:

- hollow colonies, single-cell layered
- colonies free-floating, outline ellipsoidal, globular or somewhat irregular
- diameter of colonies 50–180 μm
- colonies in a distinct gelatinous envelope
- cells obvoid or ellipsoidal, 3.5-5 μm x 7-11 μm
- cyptoplasm with scattered, small gas vacuoles
- cells on distal end of gelatinous stalks, connected in the center (hard to see)
- planktonic lifestyle



after Smith Woronichinia naegeliana The cyanobacterium *Wolonichinia naegelinana* was first described as *Coelosphaerium naegelianum*. After Woronichin was able to detect gelatinous stalks in the colonies after staining with methylene blue, the species was transferred to the genus *Wolonichinia*. However, the gelatinous stalks are difficult to recognize. I was also unable to detect them in the DIC (s. fig. 2 a-b). The cells of *Wolonichinia naegelinana* are very large with finely distributed gas vacuoles. In my population, the cells were $4-5 \ \mu m \ s^{-9} \ \mu m$ in size, which clearly distinguishes them from the similar species *Coelosphaerium kuetzingianum*, whose almost spherical cells are only 2-4 μm in size. Colonies of *Wolonichinia* and *Coelosphaerium* can also be confused with *Microcystis*. In *Microcystis*, however, the cells are scattered in the gelatinous mass and do not form a hollow sphere.



Fig. 1 a-b: *Woronichinia naegeliana*. $D = 54 \mu m$ (of colony). Two focal planes of colony in brightfield illumination. The cells arranged in a single layer have a length of 7.1–8.4 μm and a width of 4.0–5.3 μm . Obj. 100 X.



Fig. 2 a-b: Woronichinia naegeliana. $D = 54 \mu m$ (of colony). The colony as shown in fig. 1 ab in DIC. Note the distinct gelatinous layer of the colony. The stalks conecting the cells can only be seen after staining. Obj. 100 X.