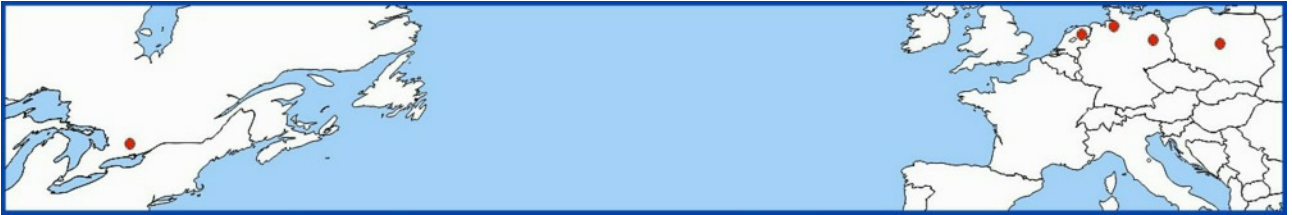


# Arcella formosa



Here you see the places on earth where *Arcella formosa* has been found so far ... now, if this is not a rare appearance!

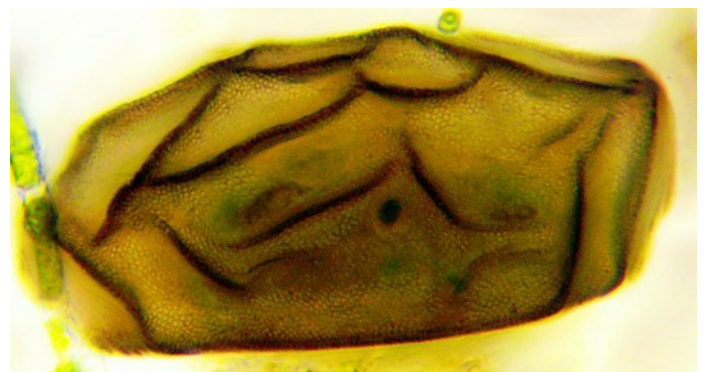
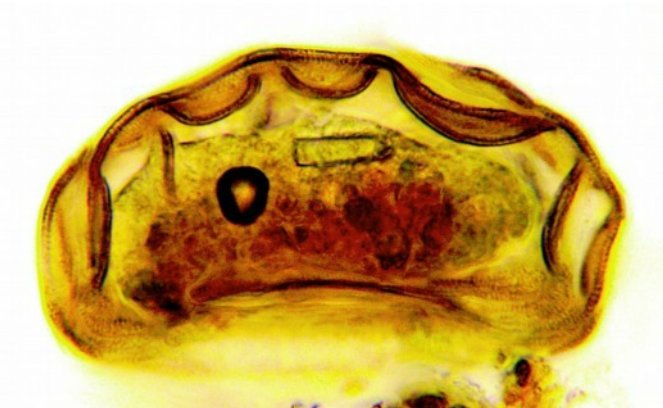
Ferry Siemensma was the first to discover some in the Netherlands in 1982, and for a period the species carried the unofficial name *Arcella siemensmai*.

2005 Kenneth Nicolls found them near Lake Ontario in Canada, Ralf Meisterfeld near Müritz in Germany and J. Török in Poland.

Then in 2017 I was lucky to find some in the Balksee Moor in the Cuxhaven area, Germany.

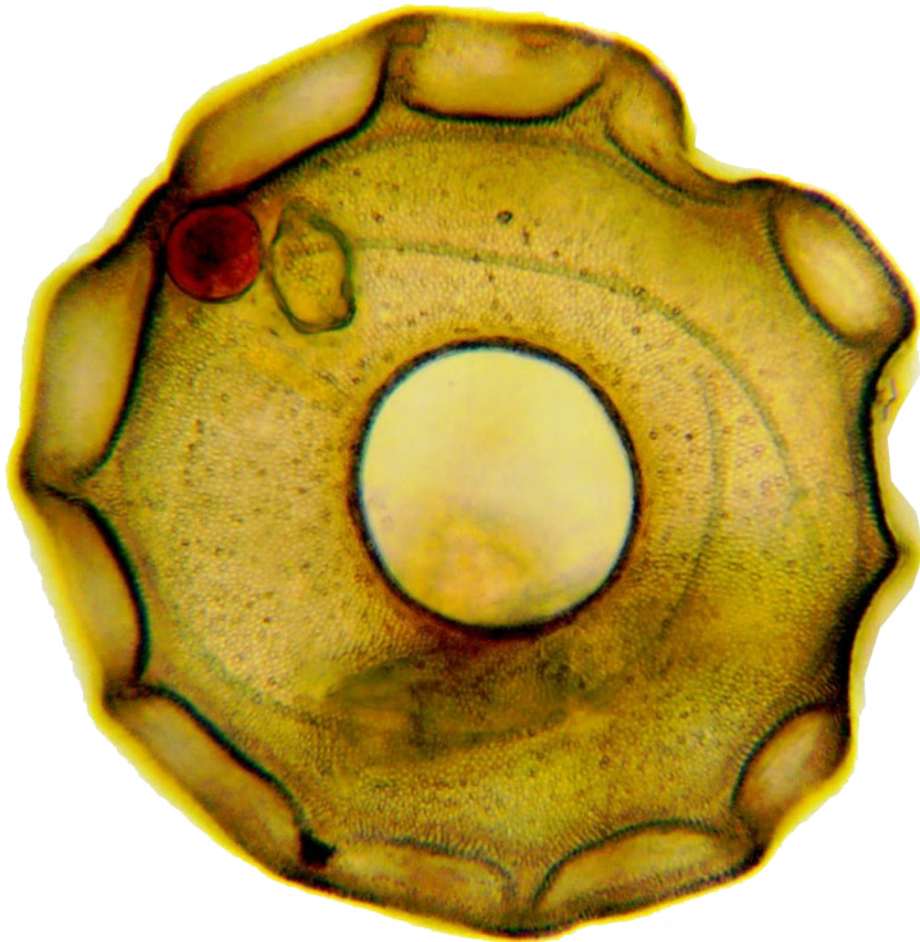
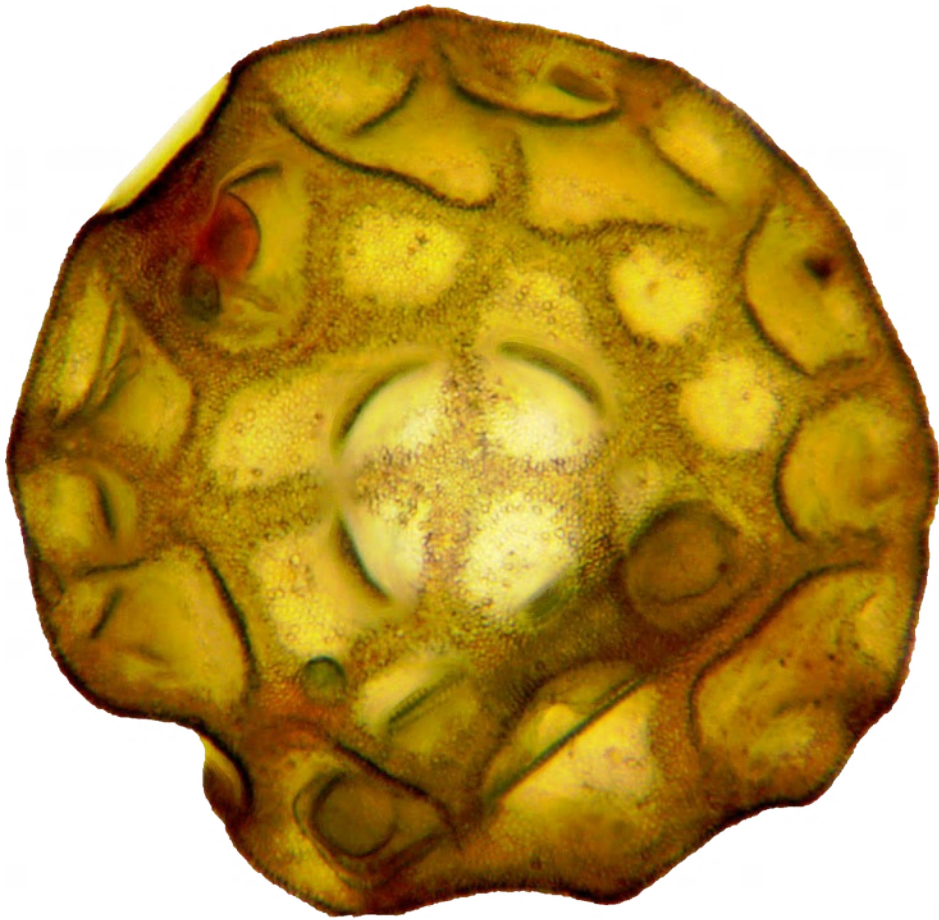
I found my specimen in two close spots, in a trench filled with *Hottonia palustris* and in a birch bog between *Sphagnum squarrosum*, both slightly acid (pH ca. 6).

And here are my specimen:

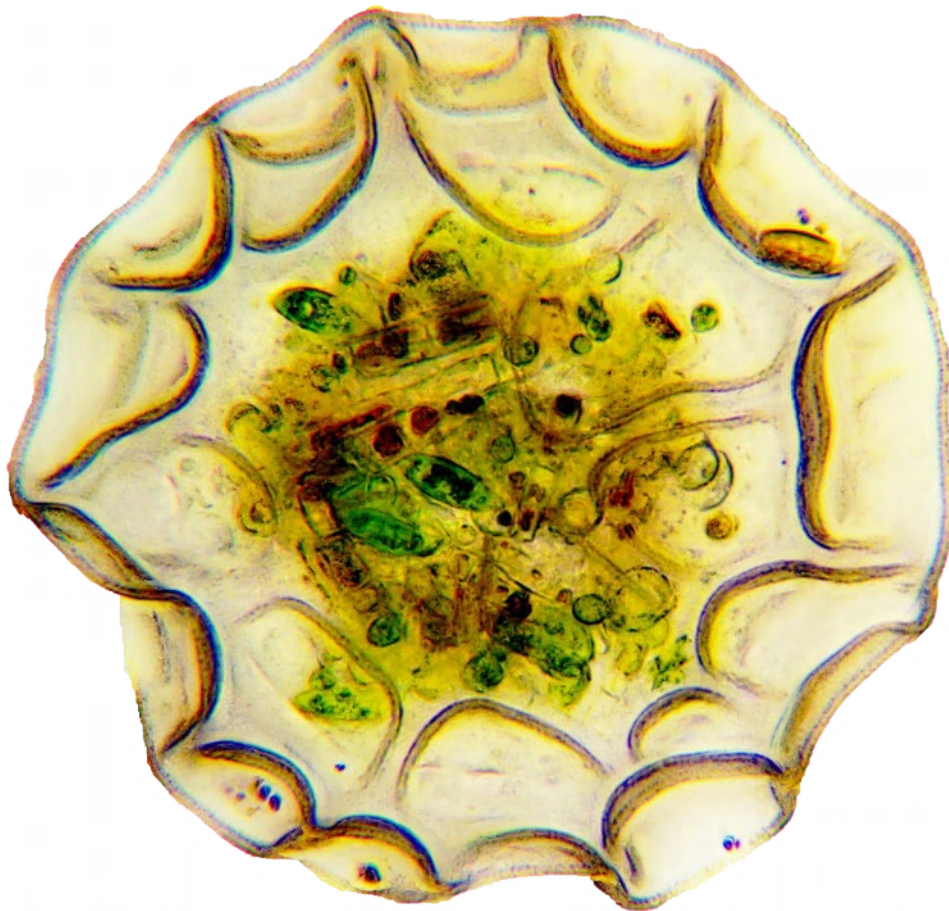
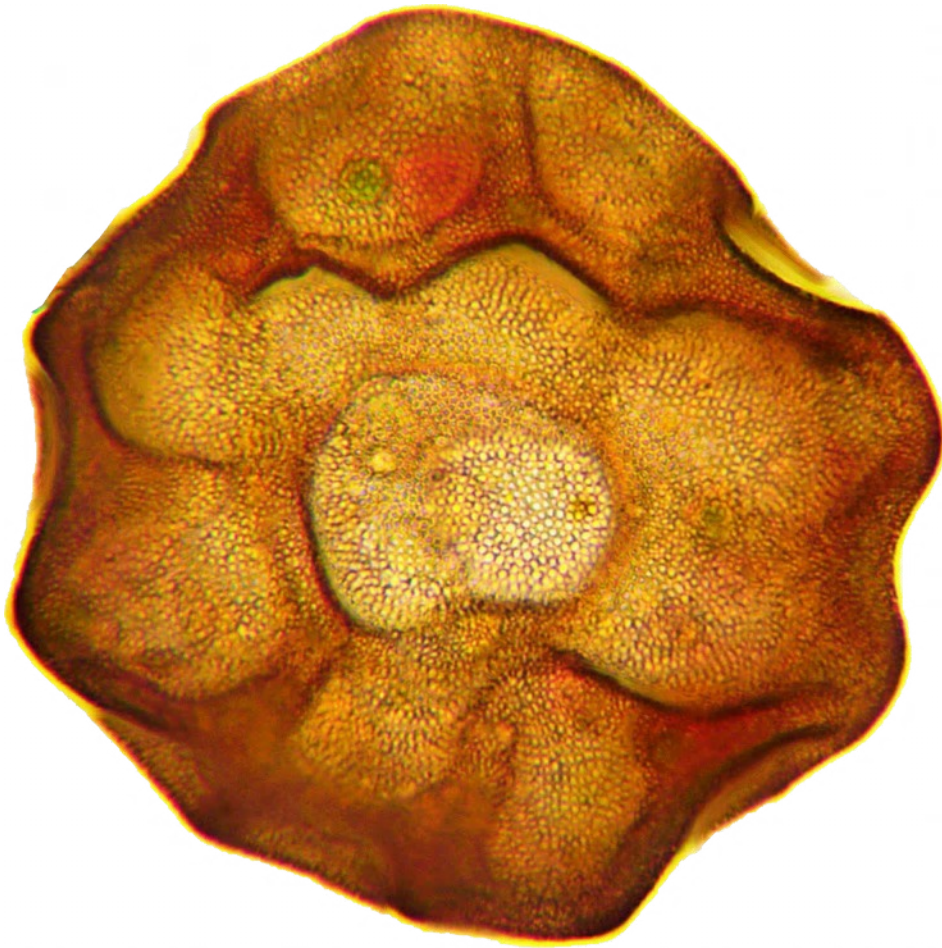


Like a pie from lateral

And from top (top) and bottom:







Like other Arcella the shell is transparent if young and darkens with age. My shells were 157-180  $\mu\text{m}$  wide. (Nicholls: 165-235  $\mu\text{m}$ )

Kenneth Nicholls wrote:

*“The large size ... and the “lumpy” appearance of the test margins are distinctive features of this species ... there are virtually no Arcella species that can be confused with A. formosa ... if A. formosa ... were widespread in other habitats on other parts of the world, they should have been detected by others long ago.*

*The specific epithet (“formosa”) refers to the attractive smooth curves created by the depressions in the dorsal surface of the test [formosa (Latin, fem. adj.) = beautiful].”.*

Which proves that even the modest pond-life enthusiast has a chance to discover something remarkable.

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Hans Rothauscher, 30 June 2019

[www.hans-rothauscher.de/testaceen](http://www.hans-rothauscher.de/testaceen) - rothauscher at gmx.de

**Further info:**

Ferry Siemensmas Page on the species: <https://www.arcella.nl/arcella-formosa/>

Kenneth H. Nicholls' paper:

<http://canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/download/152/152>

My Page:

<http://hans-rothauscher.de/testaceen/formosa.htm>

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[www.micscape.org](http://www.micscape.org)