Proceedings of 9th Socratic Lectures **2024**

Repository

Scanning electron microscope images of small cellular particles isolated from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* conditioned media enriched with Guillard's (F/2) and MW-BG11. Light and dark phases

Bedina Zavec Apolonija[1] , Božič Darja[2,3], Hočevar Matej[4], Iglič Aleš[3,5], Jeran Marko[2,3], Kralj-Iglič Veronika[2,*],Romolo Anna[2]

[1]National Institute of Chemistry, University of Ljubljana, [2]University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Health Sciences, Laboratory of Clinical Biophysics, [3]University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Laboratory of Physics, [4]Institute of Metals and Technology, [5]University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine, Laboratory of Clinical Biophysics, Ljubljana, Slovenia
* Correspondence to Veronika Kralj-Iglič, veronika.kralj-iglic@zf.uni-lj.si

Citation: Bedina Zavec A, Božič D, Hočevar M, Iglič A, Jeran M, Kralj-Iglič V, Romolo A. Scanning electron microscope images of small cellular particles isolated from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* conditioned media, light and dark phases. Proceedings of Socratic Lectures. **2024**, 9, 351-420. https://doi.org/10.55295/PSL.2024.D14

Abstract: Scanning electron microscope images of small cellular particles isolated from *Phaeodactylum tricornutun* conditoned media, light and dark phases are presented. Each image is supplemented by description of the preparation of the sample and the data on the imaging technique and equipment.

The data curators of the repository are Veronika Kralj-Iglič and Anna Romolo. More data on experiments with microalgae small cellular particles can be found in (Adamo et al., 2021), (Picciotto et al., 2021) and (Božič et al., 2022).

Acknowledgements: This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 801338 and ARRS projects P1-0391, P2-0232, P3-0388, J2-4447, J2-4427, L3-2621, J3-3066, IO-0006 (A) and National Research, Development and Innovation Office (Hungary), grant number SNN 138407.

Keywords: Extracellular vesicles, Extracellular particles, Nanoalgosomes, Exosomes

References

1. Adamo G, Fierli D, Romancino DP, et al. Nanoalgosomes: Introducing extracellular vesicles produced by microalgae. *J Extracell Vesicles*. 2021;10(6):e12081. doi:10.1002/jev2.12081
2. Picciotto S, Barone ME, Fierli D, et al. Isolation of extracellular vesicles from microalgae: towards the production of sustainable and natural nanocarriers of bioactive compounds. *Biomater Sci*. 2021;9(8):2917-2930. doi:10.1039/d0bm01696a
3. Božič D, Hočevar M, Jeran M et al. Ultrastructure and stability of cellular nanoparticles isolated from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* and *Dunaliella tertiolecta* conditioned media. *Open Res Europe* 2022, 2:121 (https://doi.org/10.12688/openreseurope.14896.1)

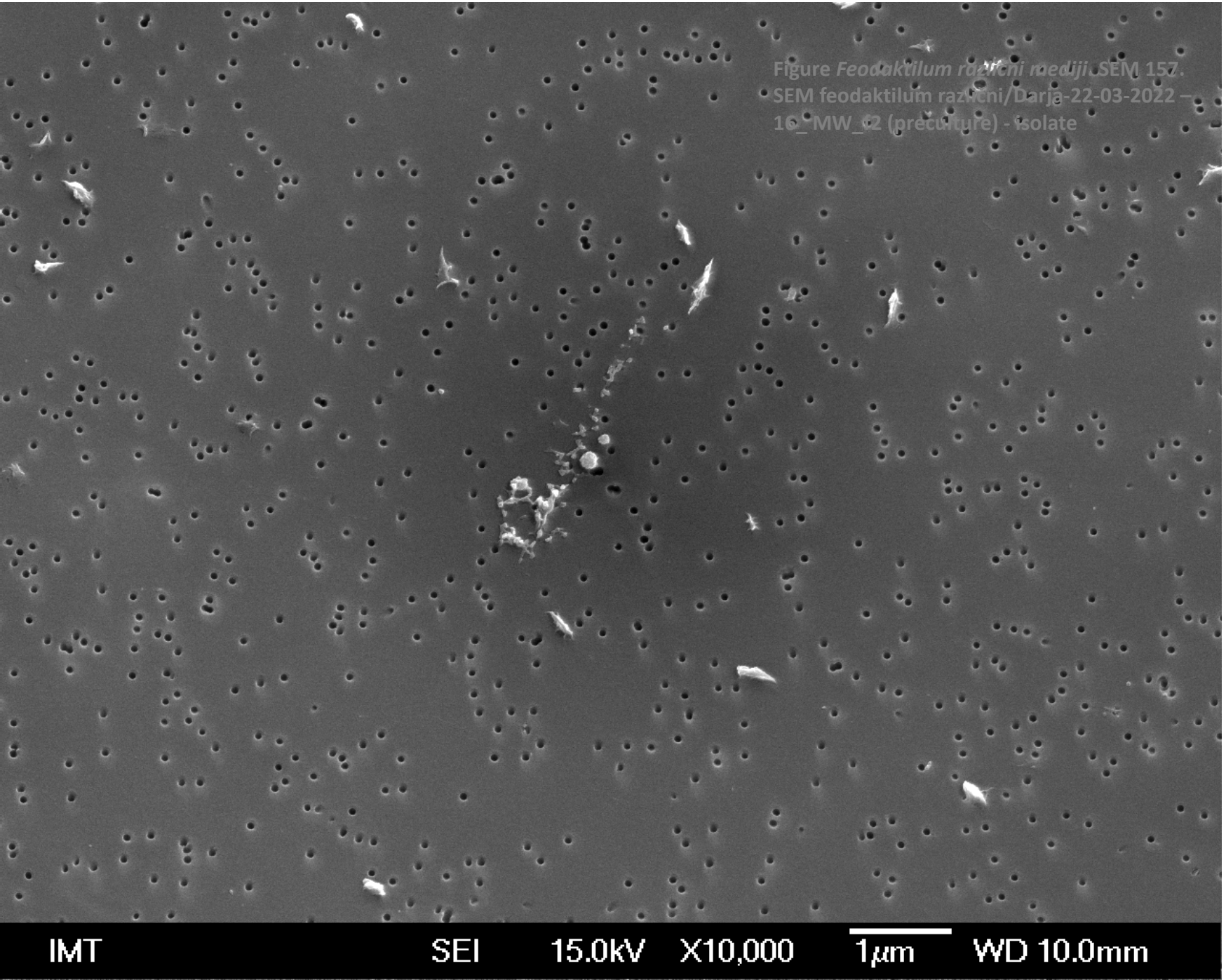

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 3.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

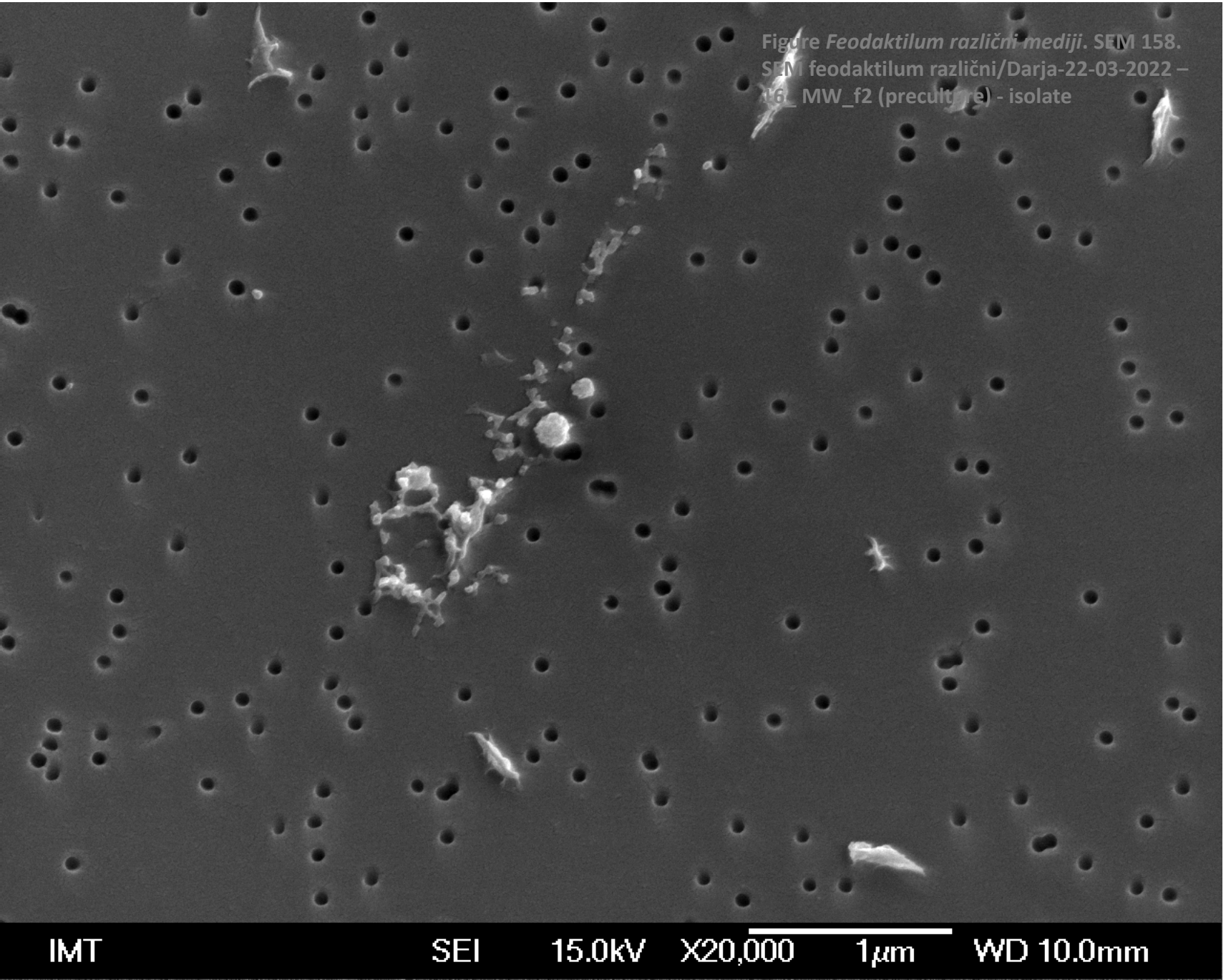

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 4.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

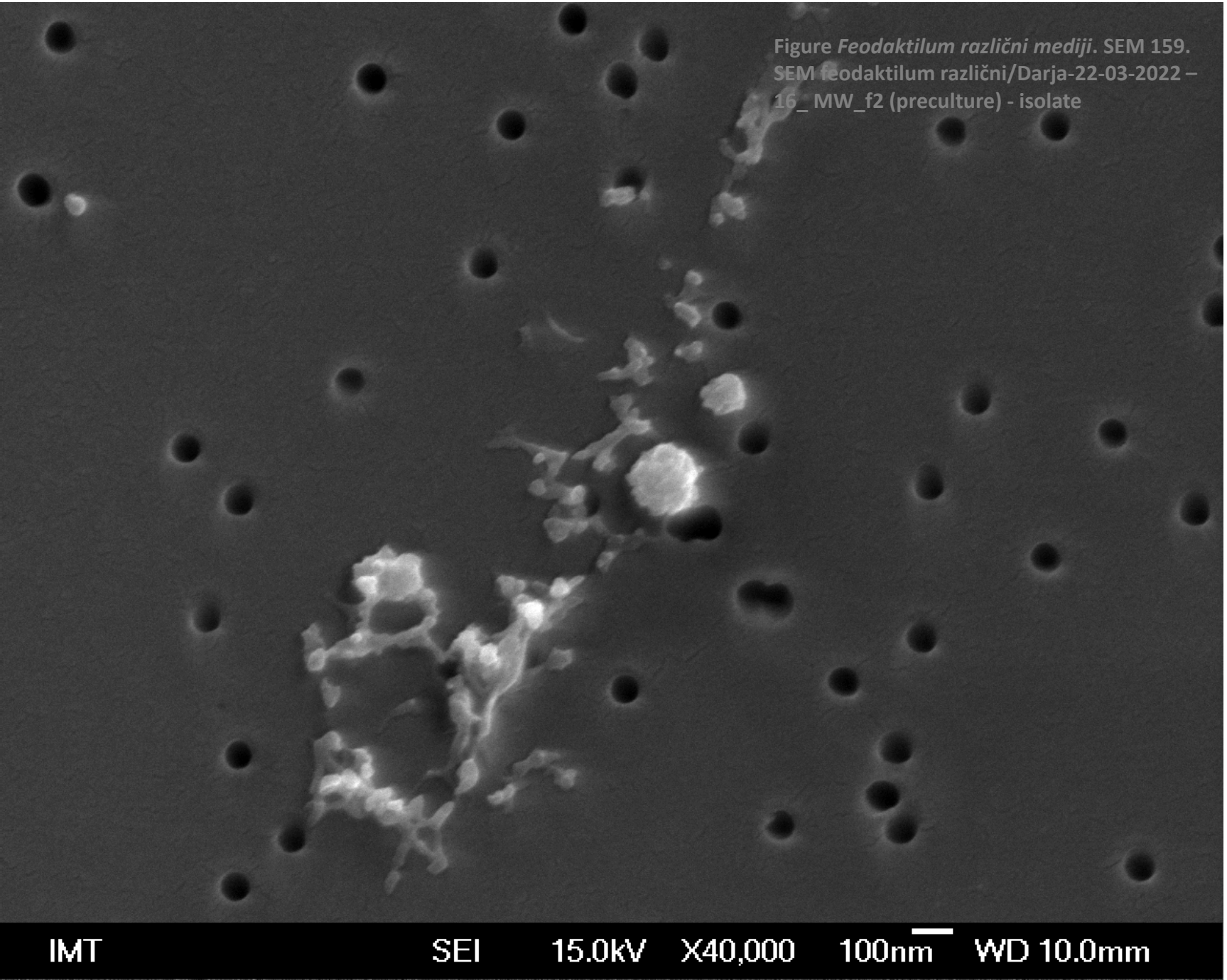

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 5.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

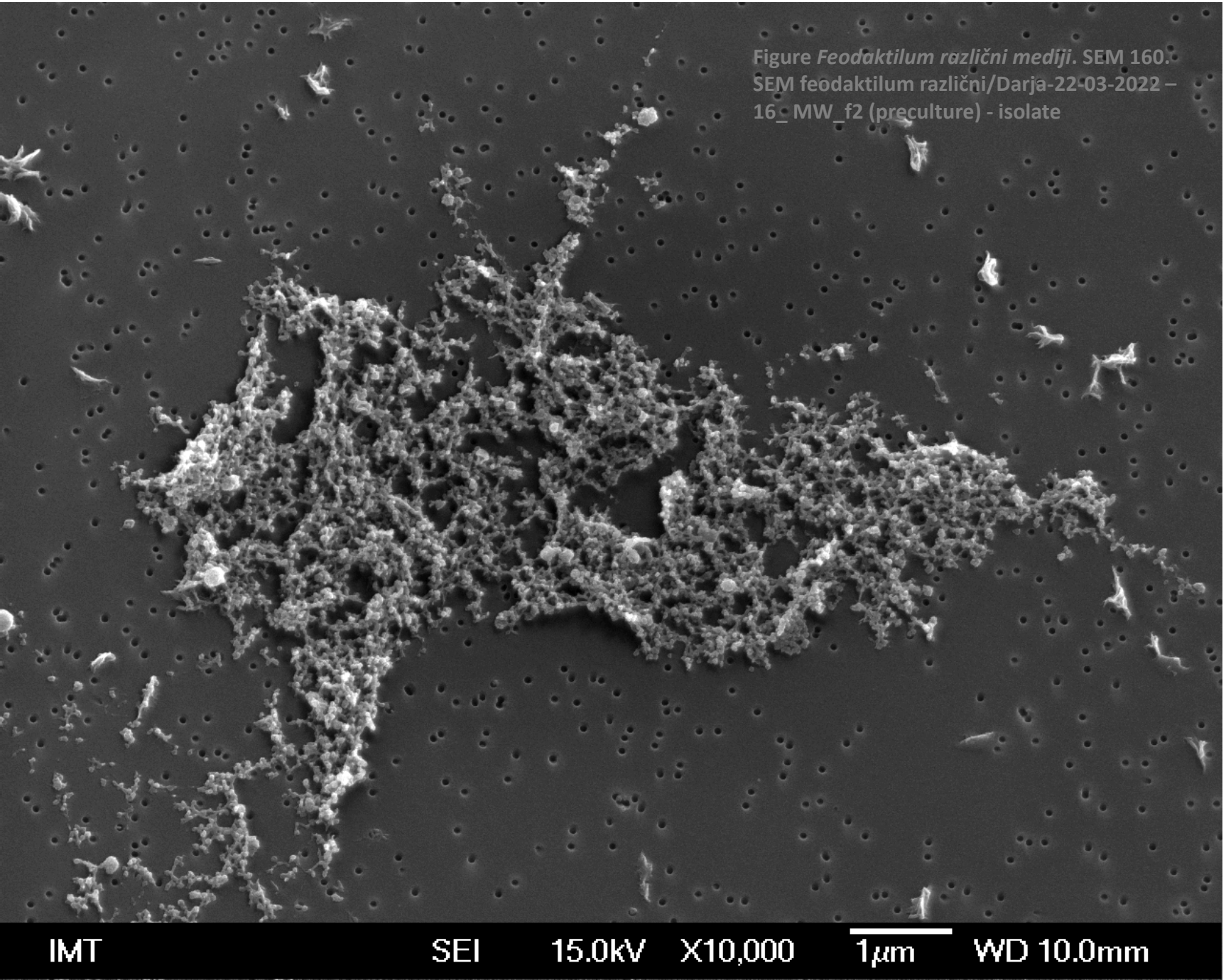

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 6.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

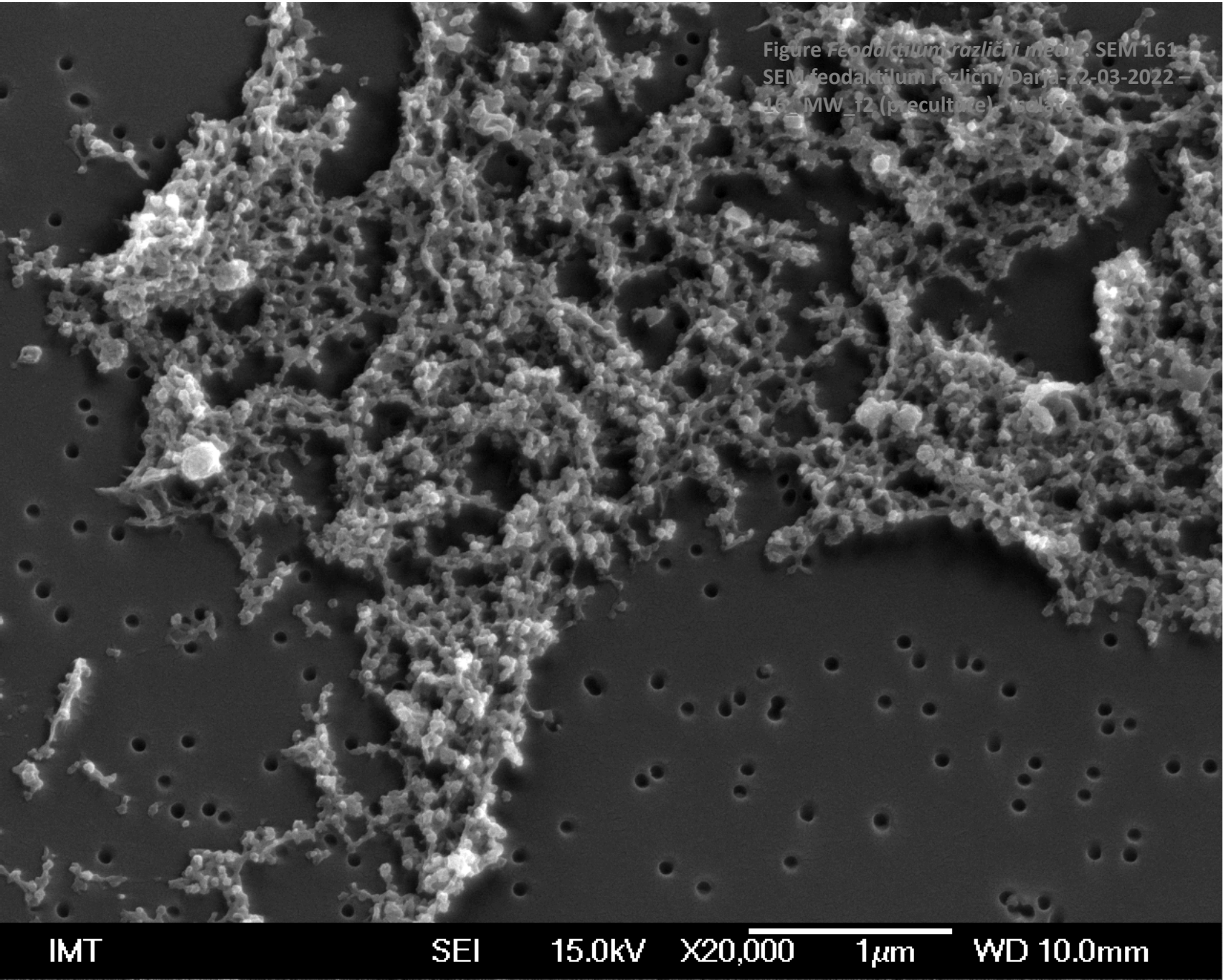

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 7.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

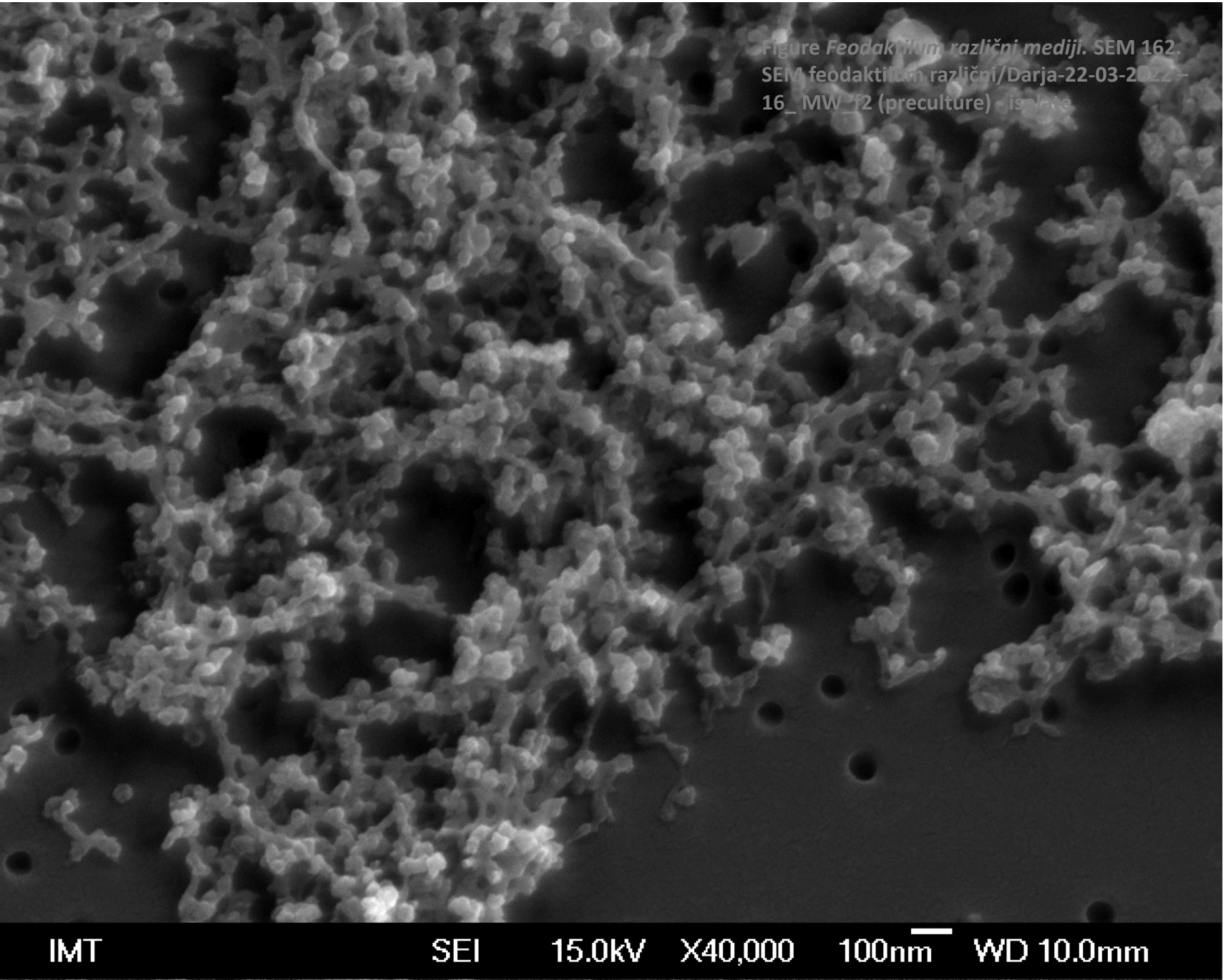

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 8.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

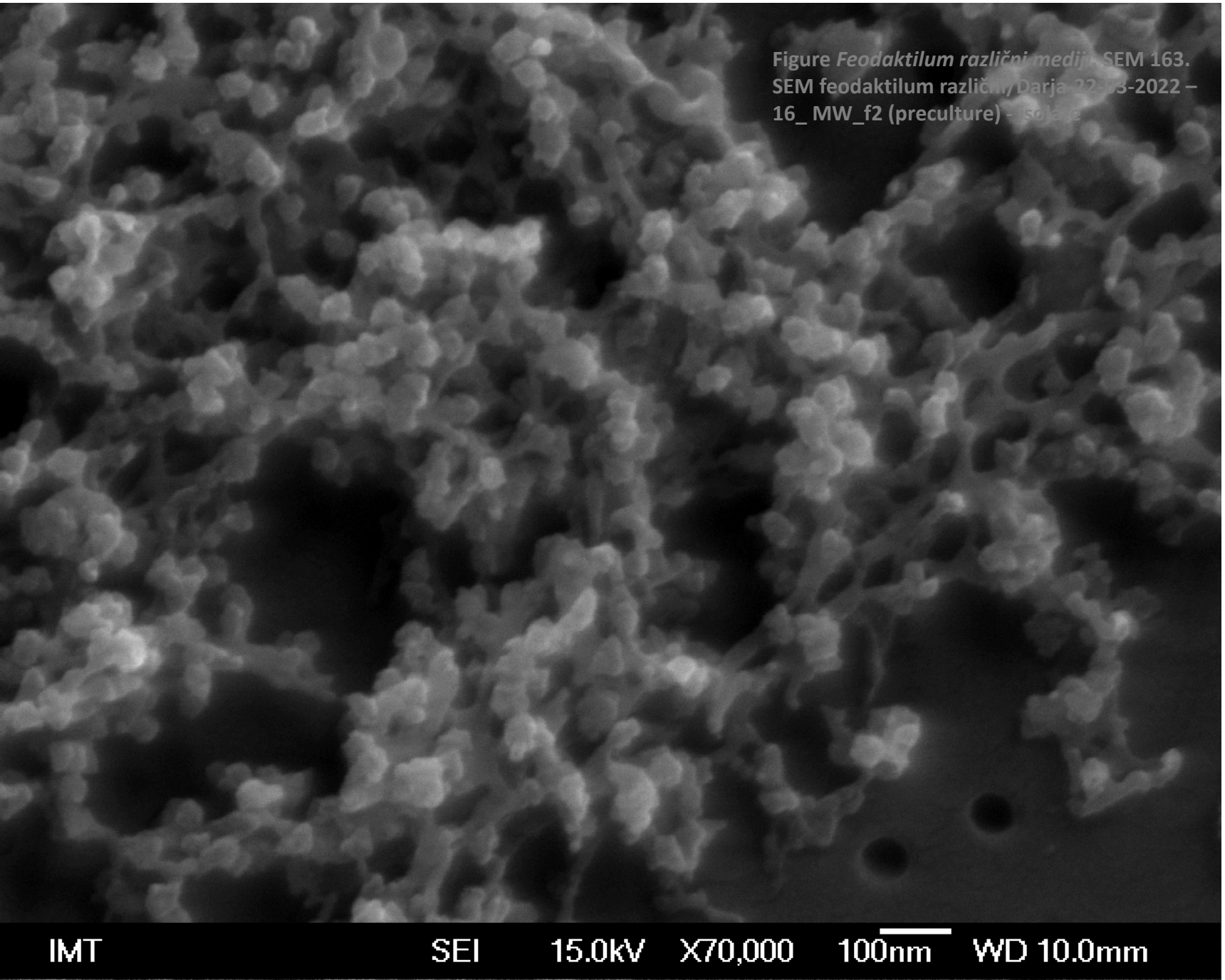

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 9.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

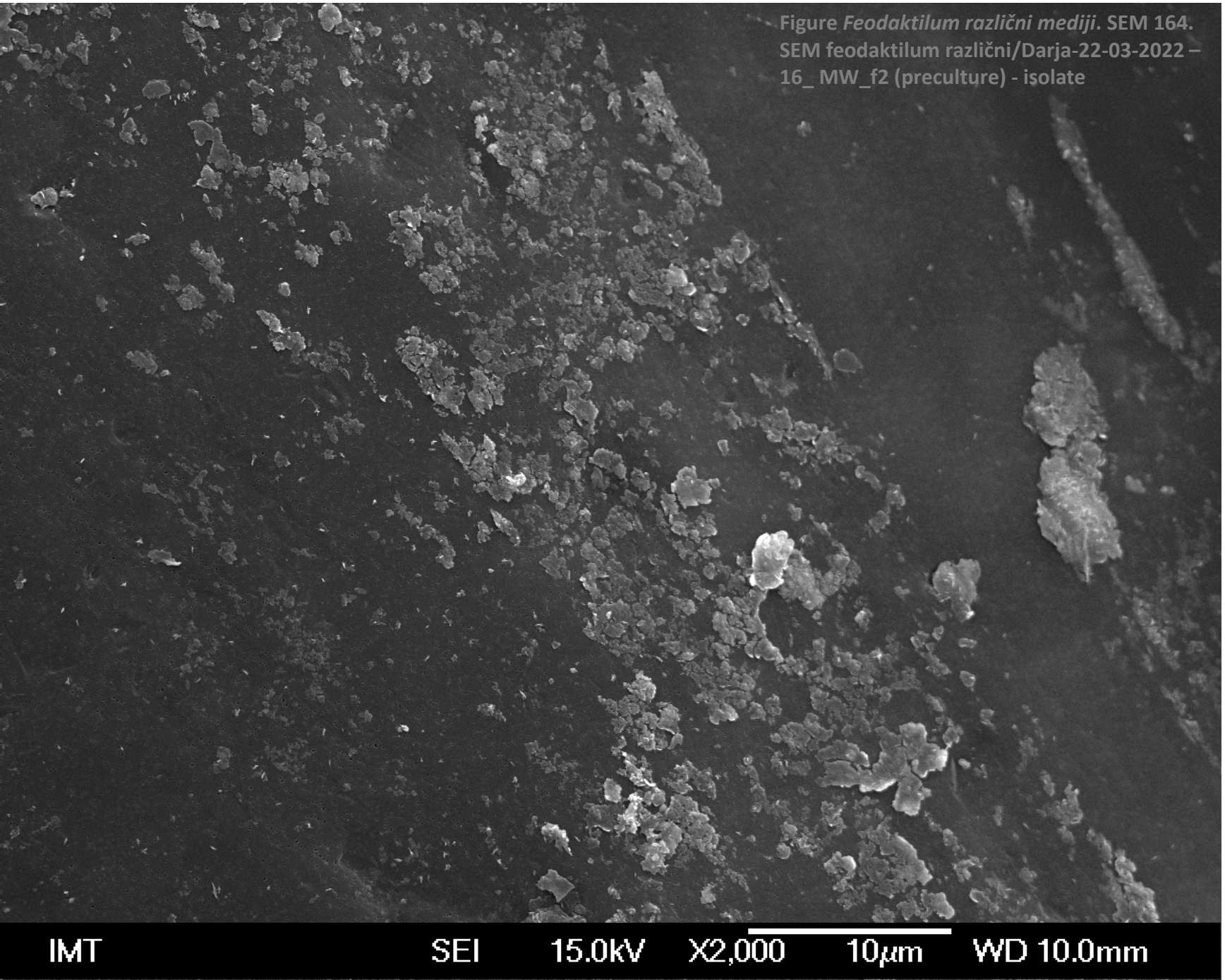

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 10.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

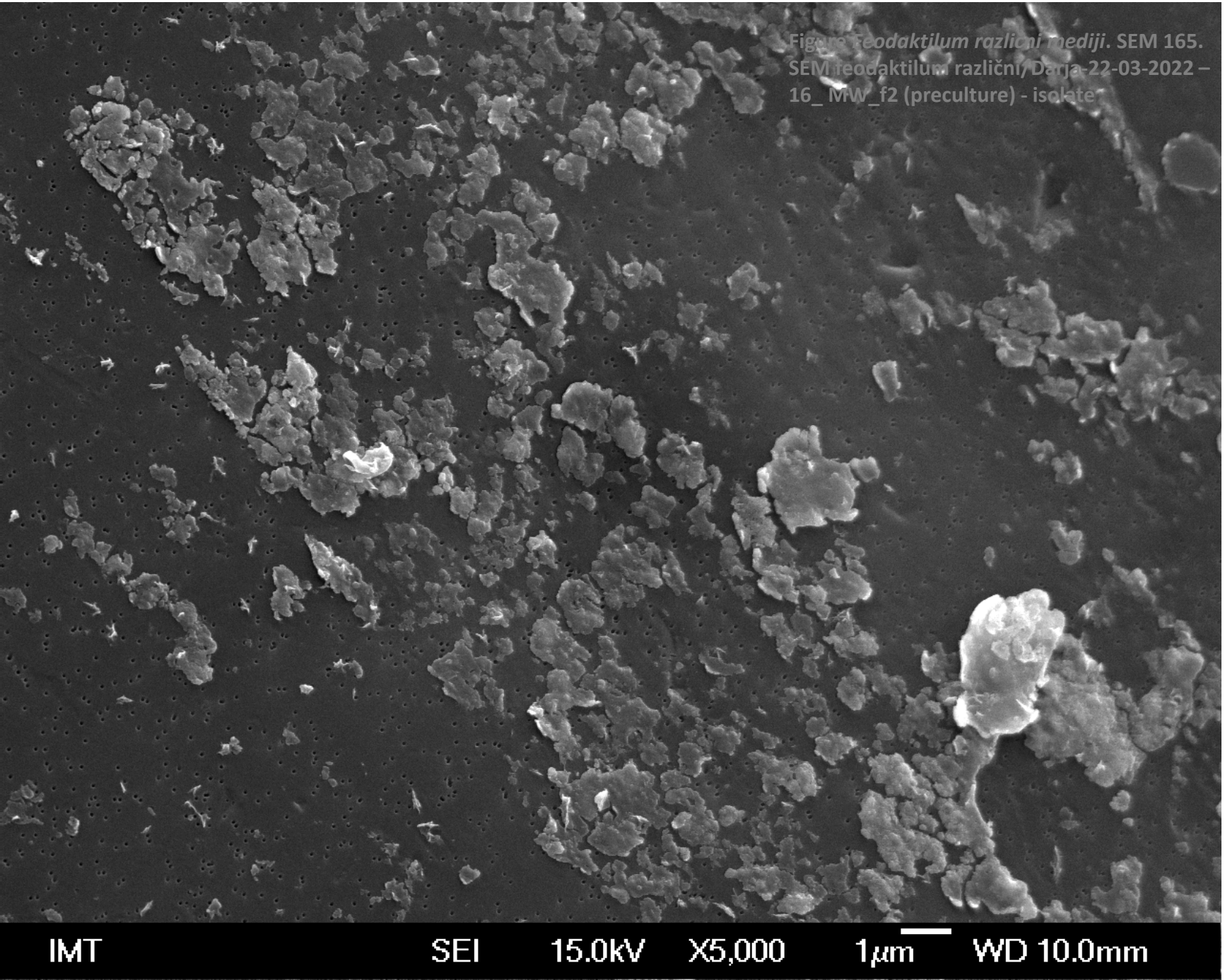

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 11.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

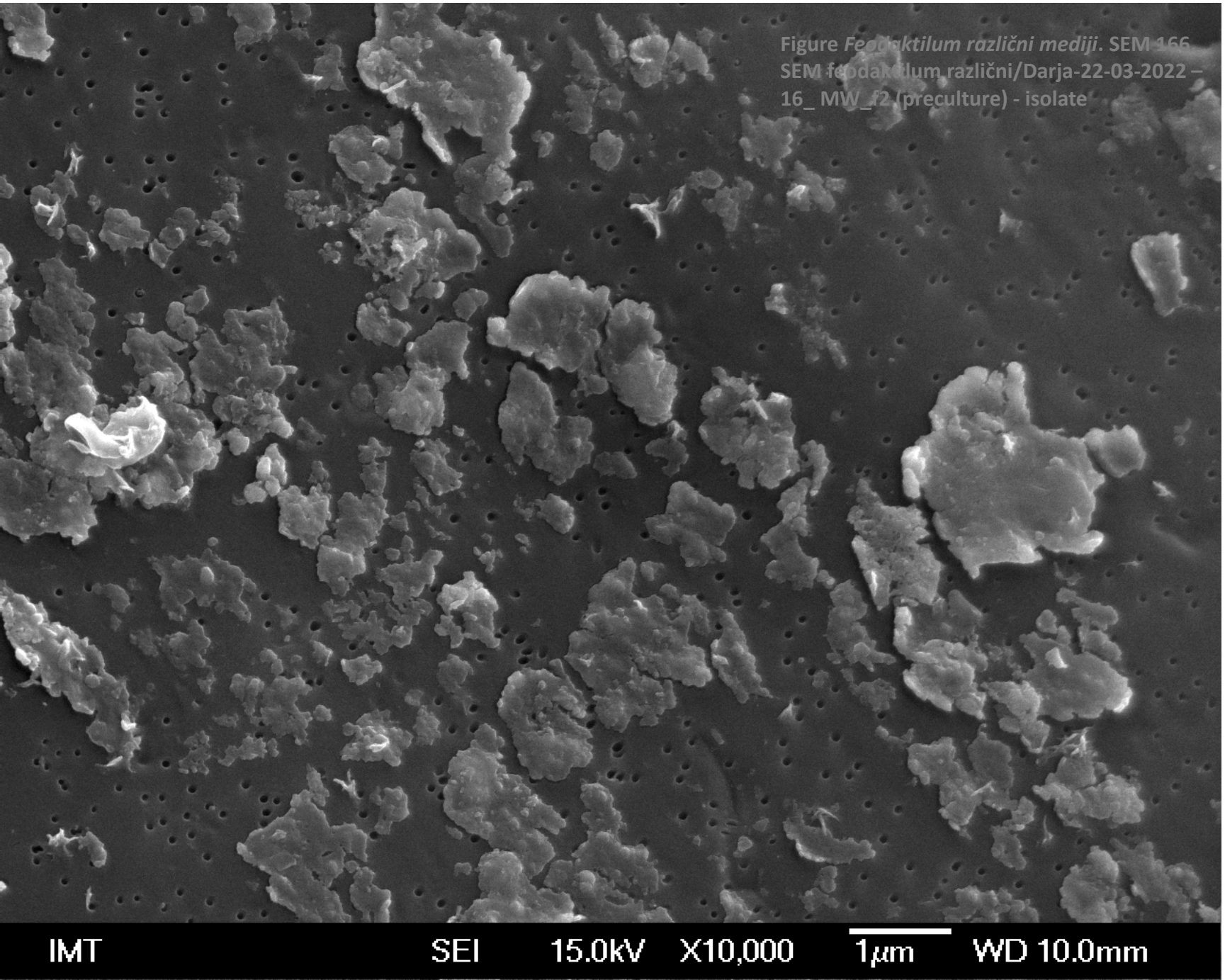

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 12.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

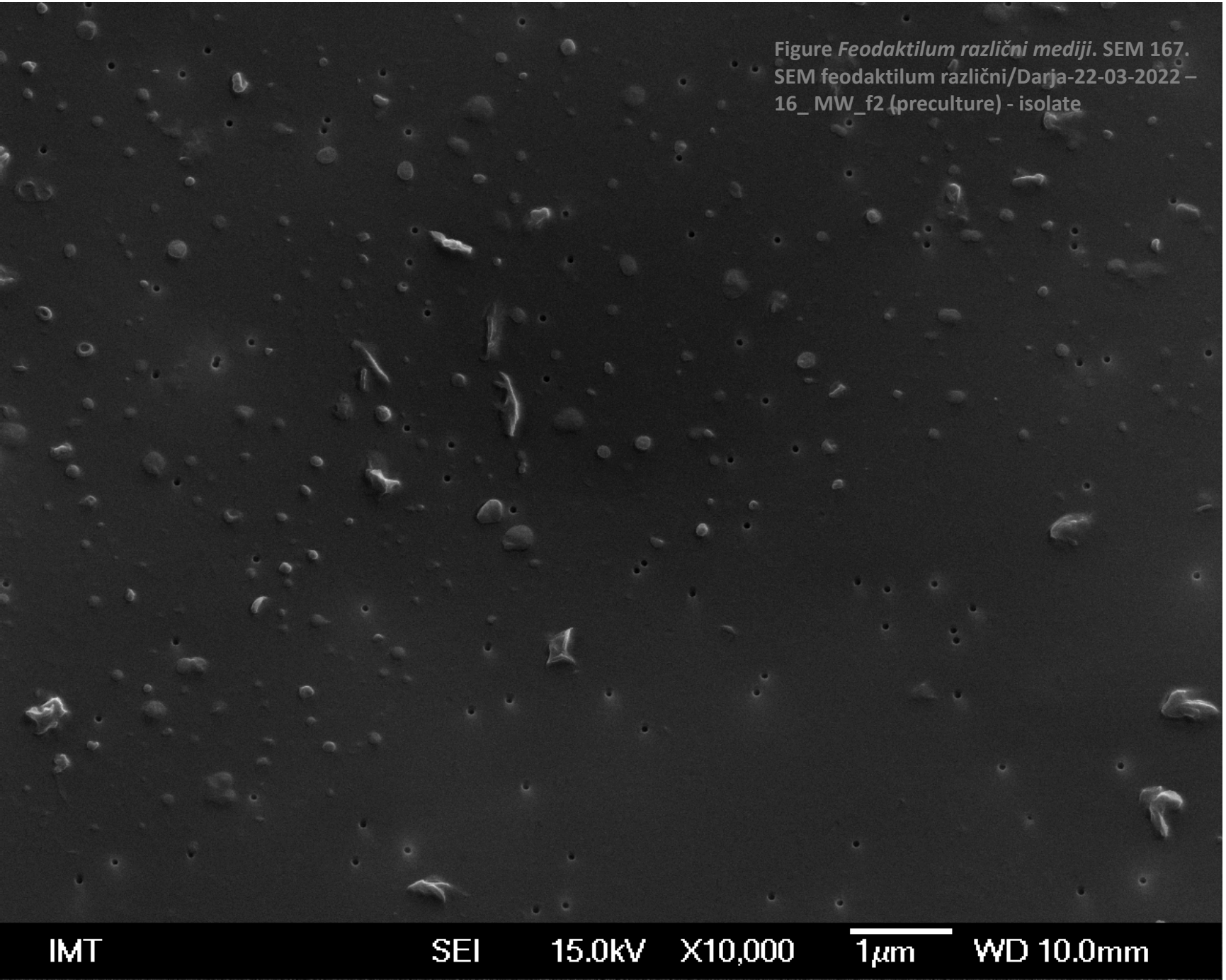

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 13.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

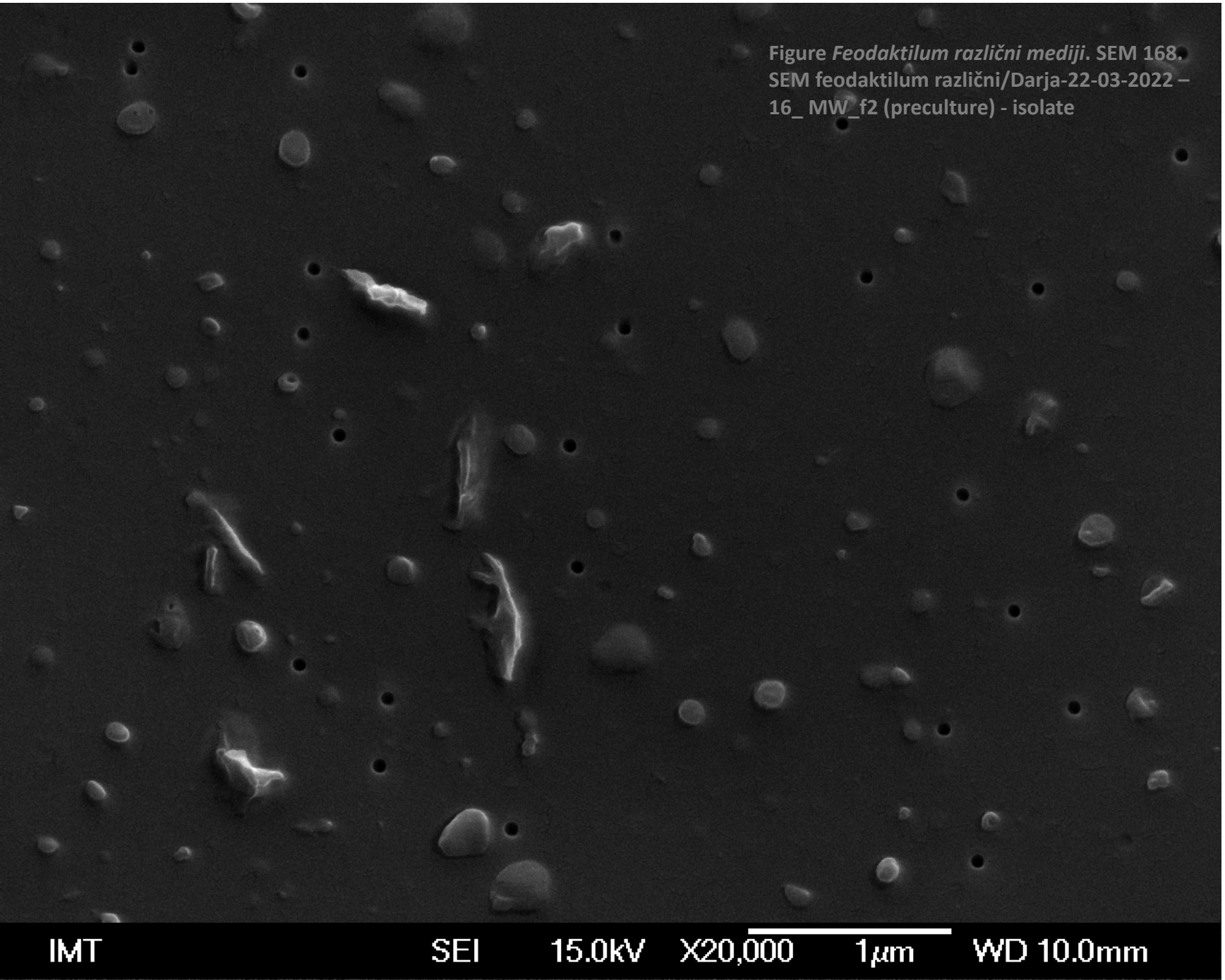

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM 14.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

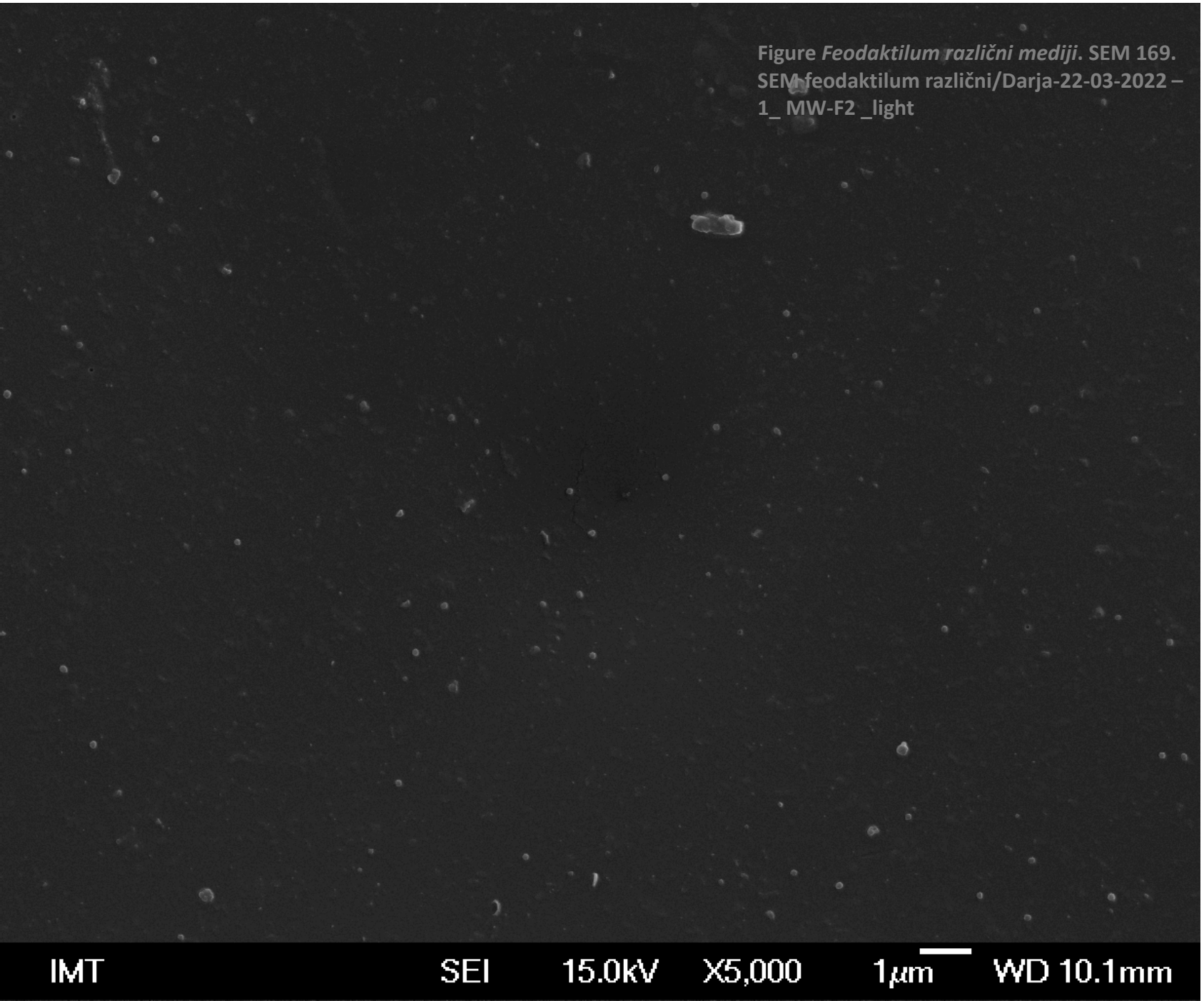

Figure *Feodaktilum različni mediji*. SEM 169. SEM feodaktilum različni/Darja-22-03-2022 – 1_ MW-F2 _light

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 L SEM 15.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with Guillard's (F/2) Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

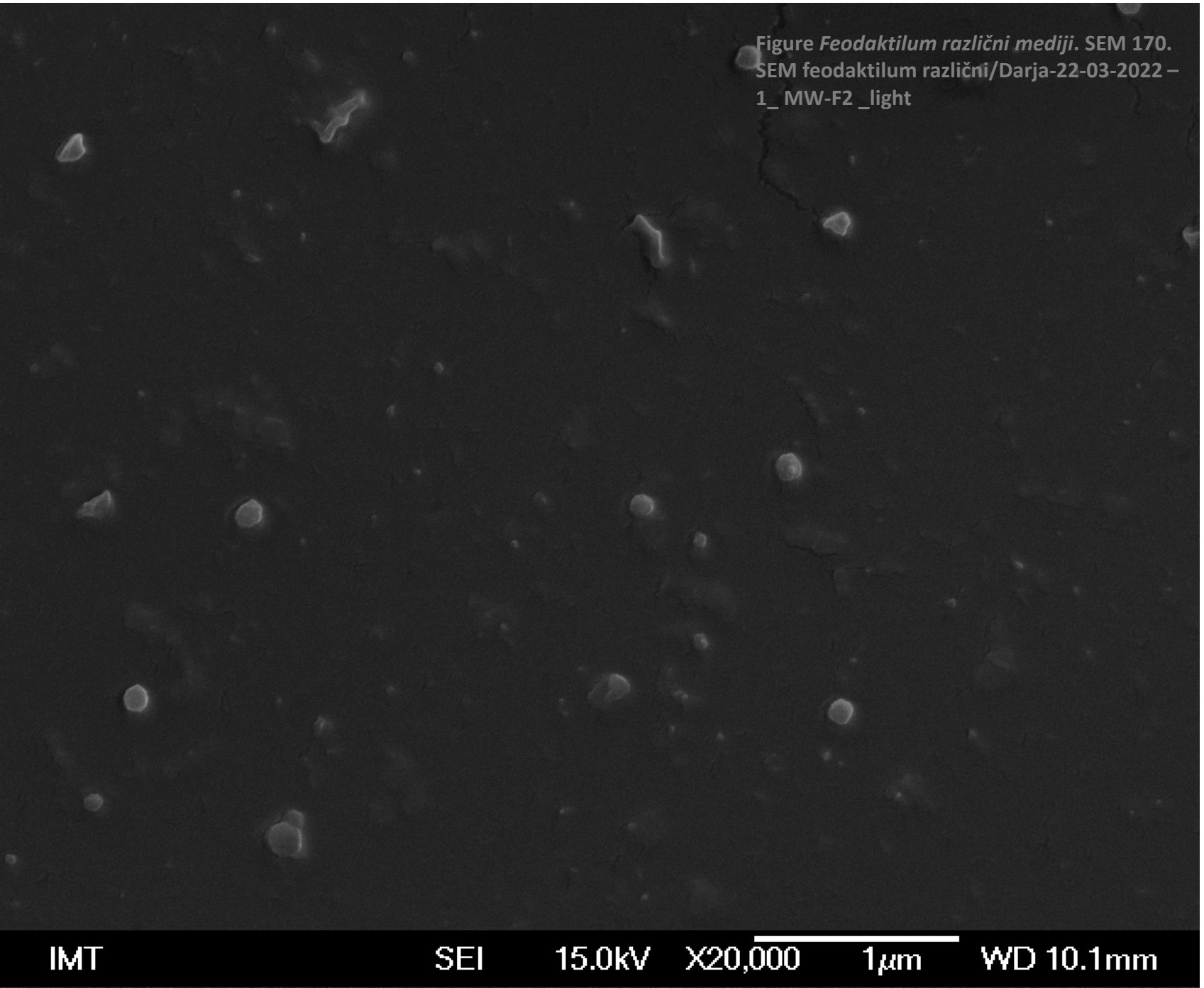

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 L SEM 16.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

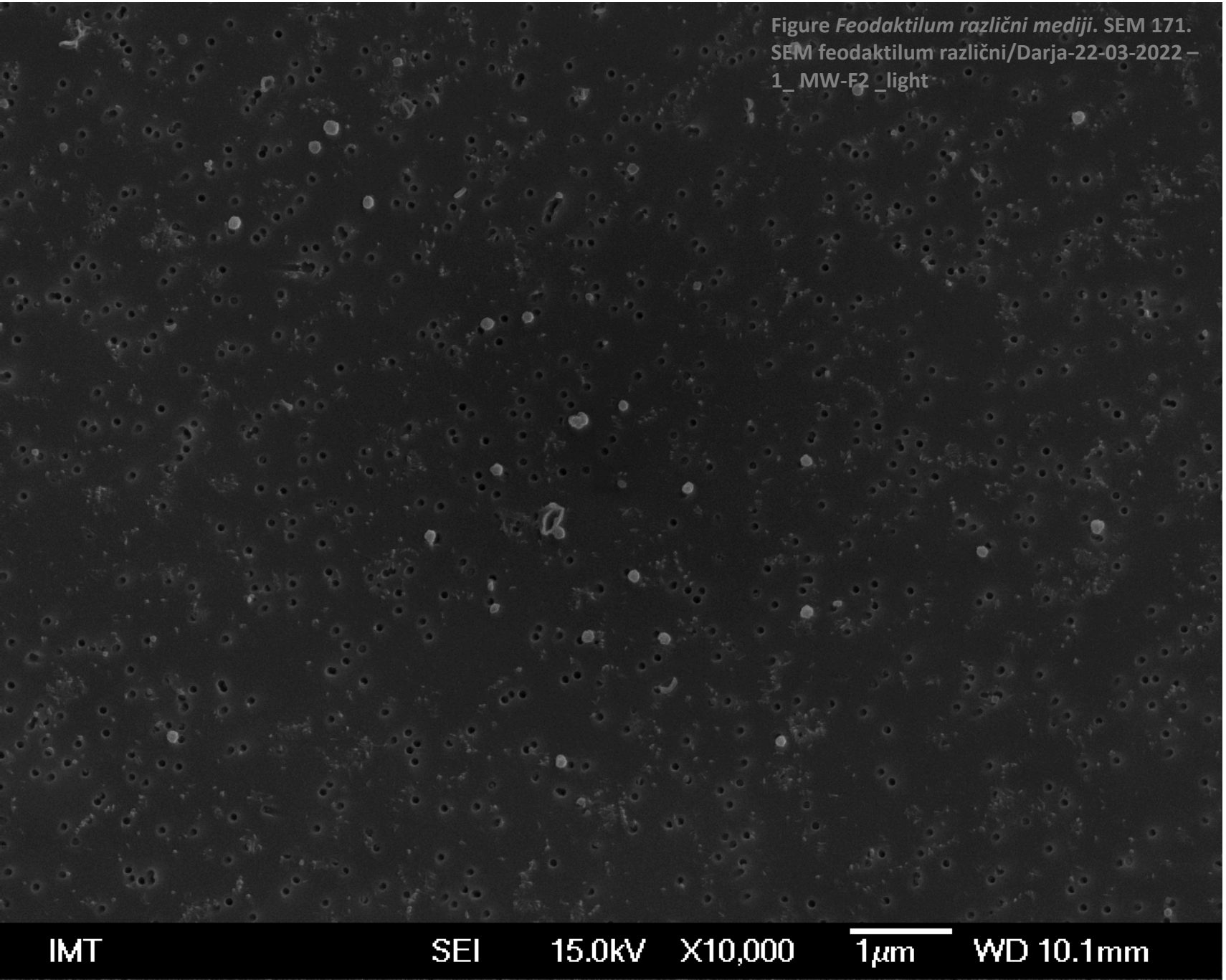

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 L SEM 17.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

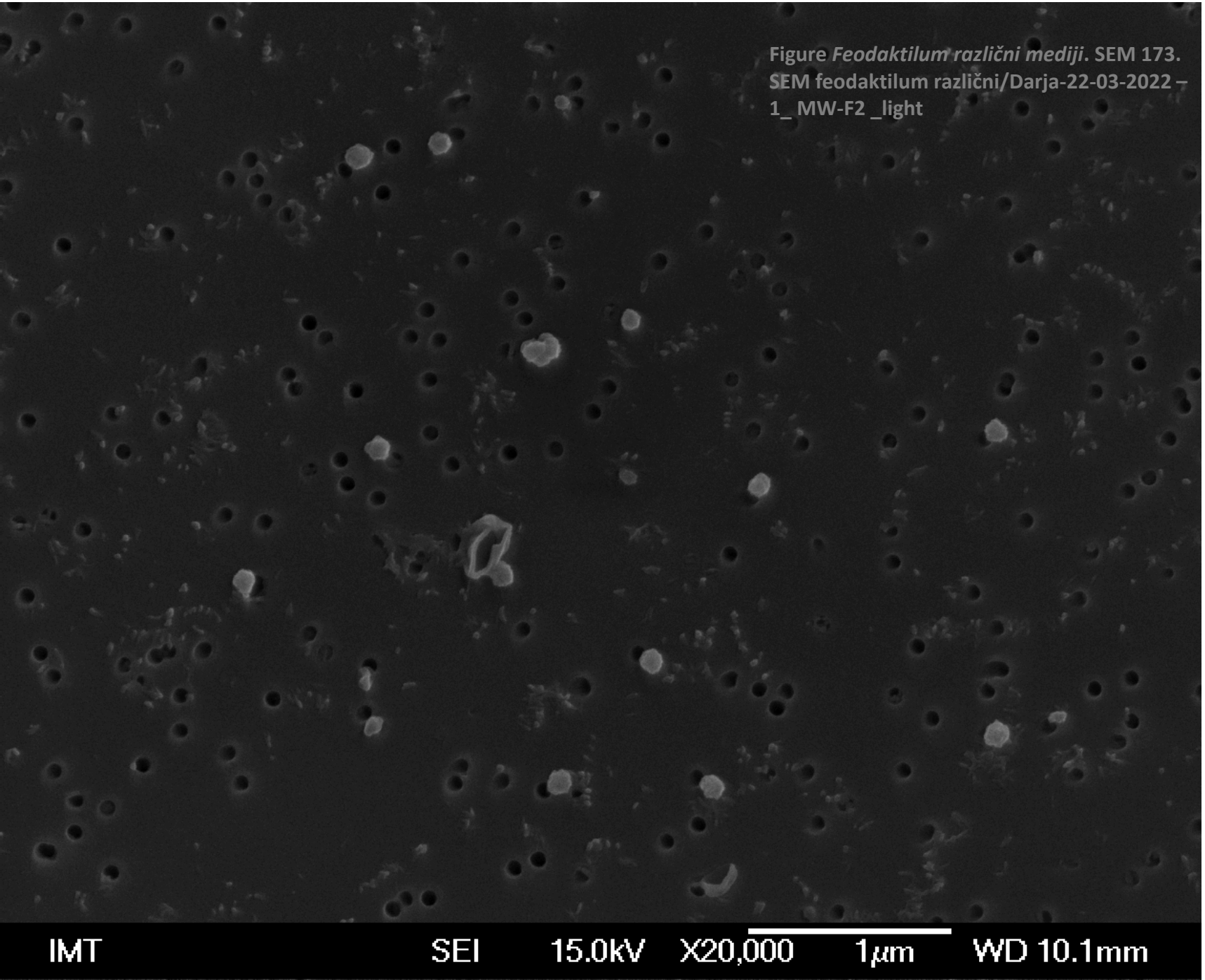

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 L SEM 18.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

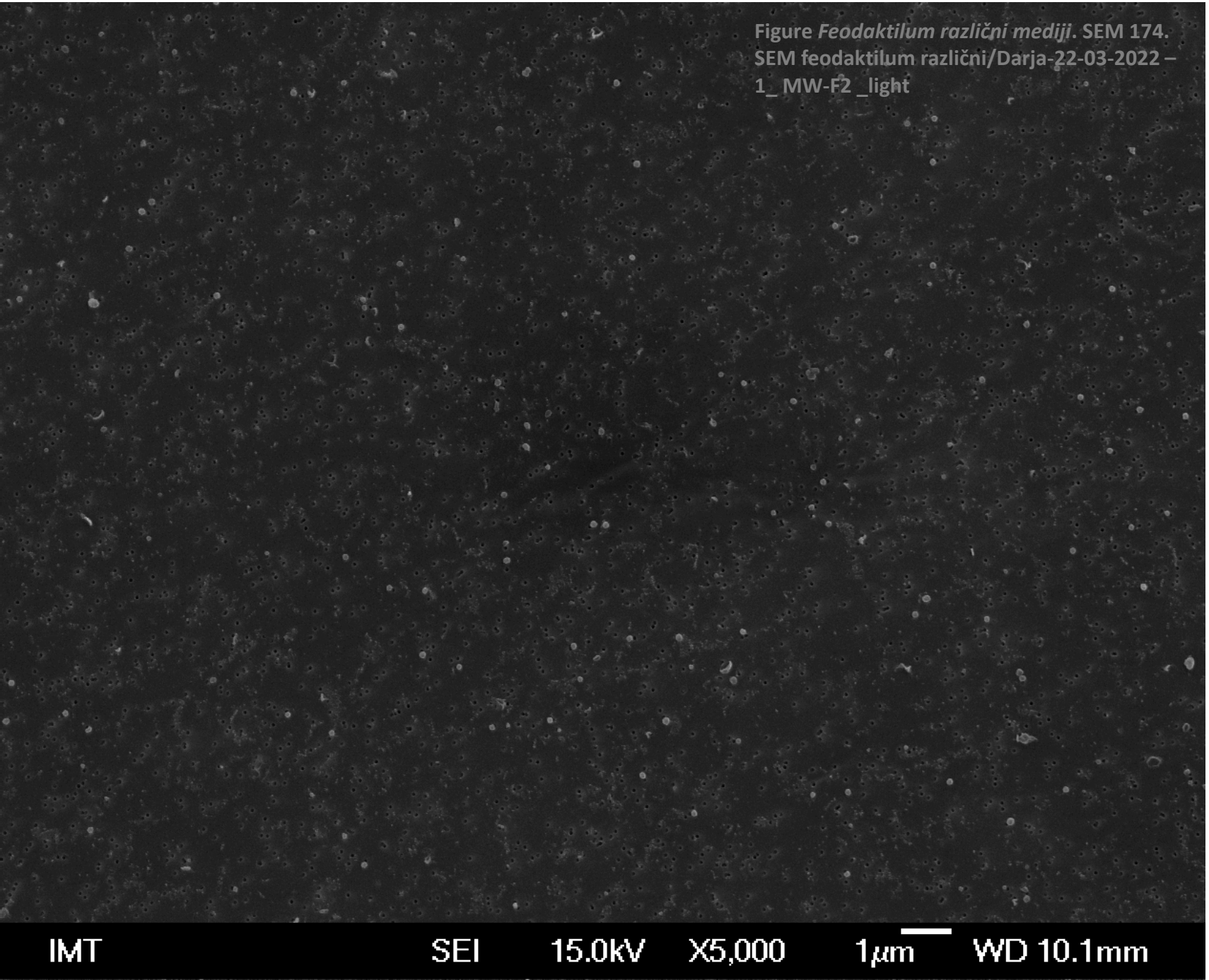

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 L SEM 19.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

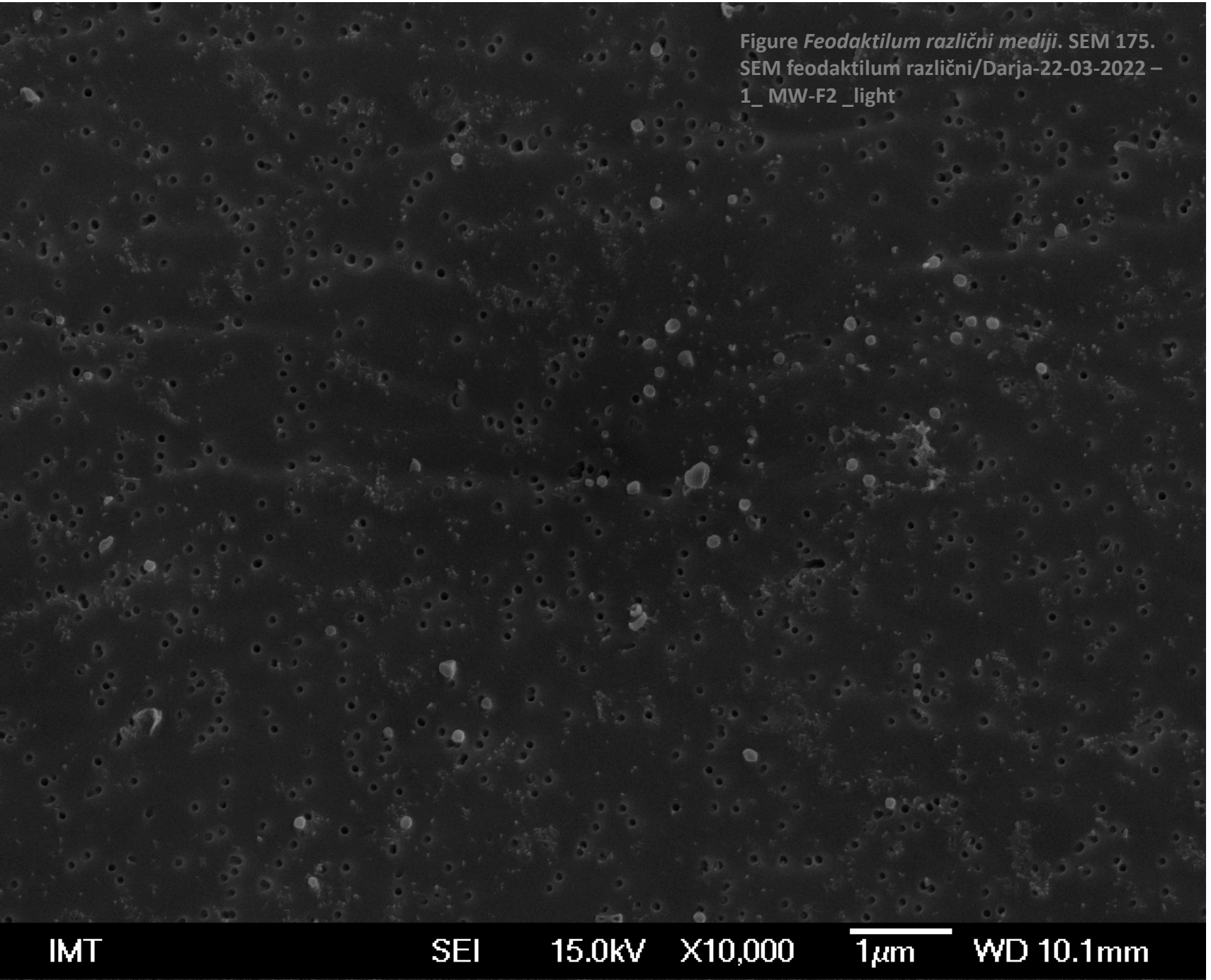

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 L SEM 20.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

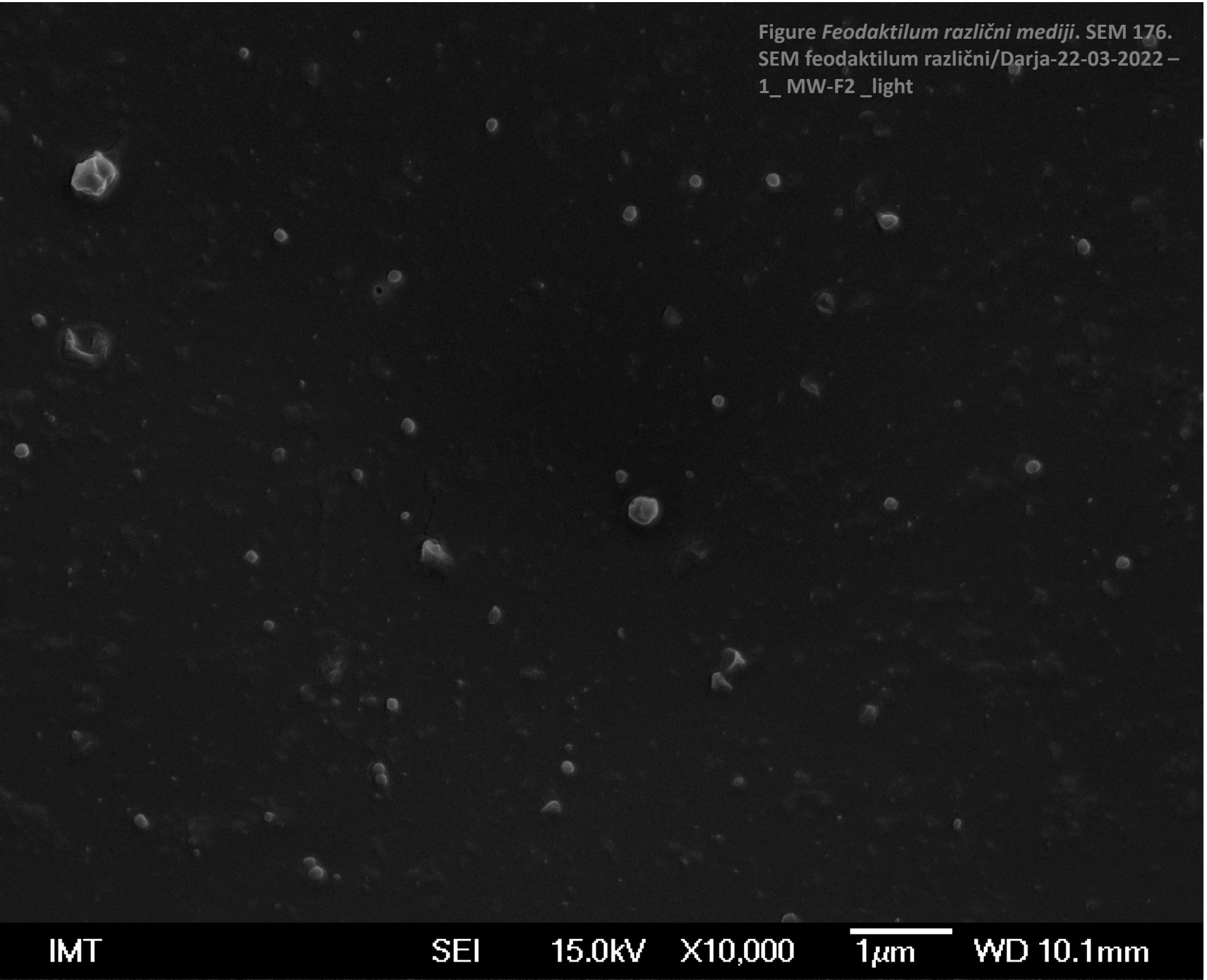

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 SEM L 21.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

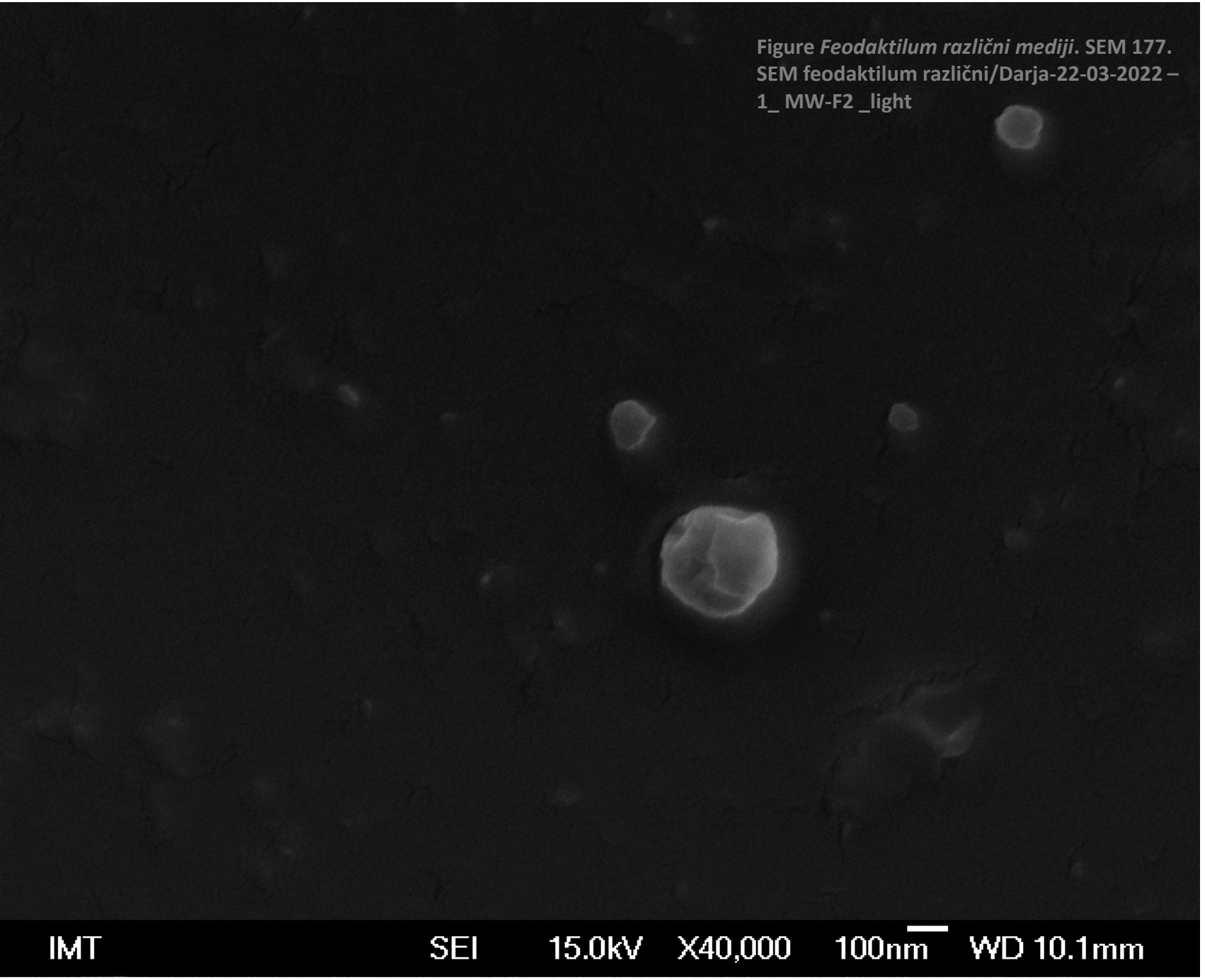

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 L SEM 22.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

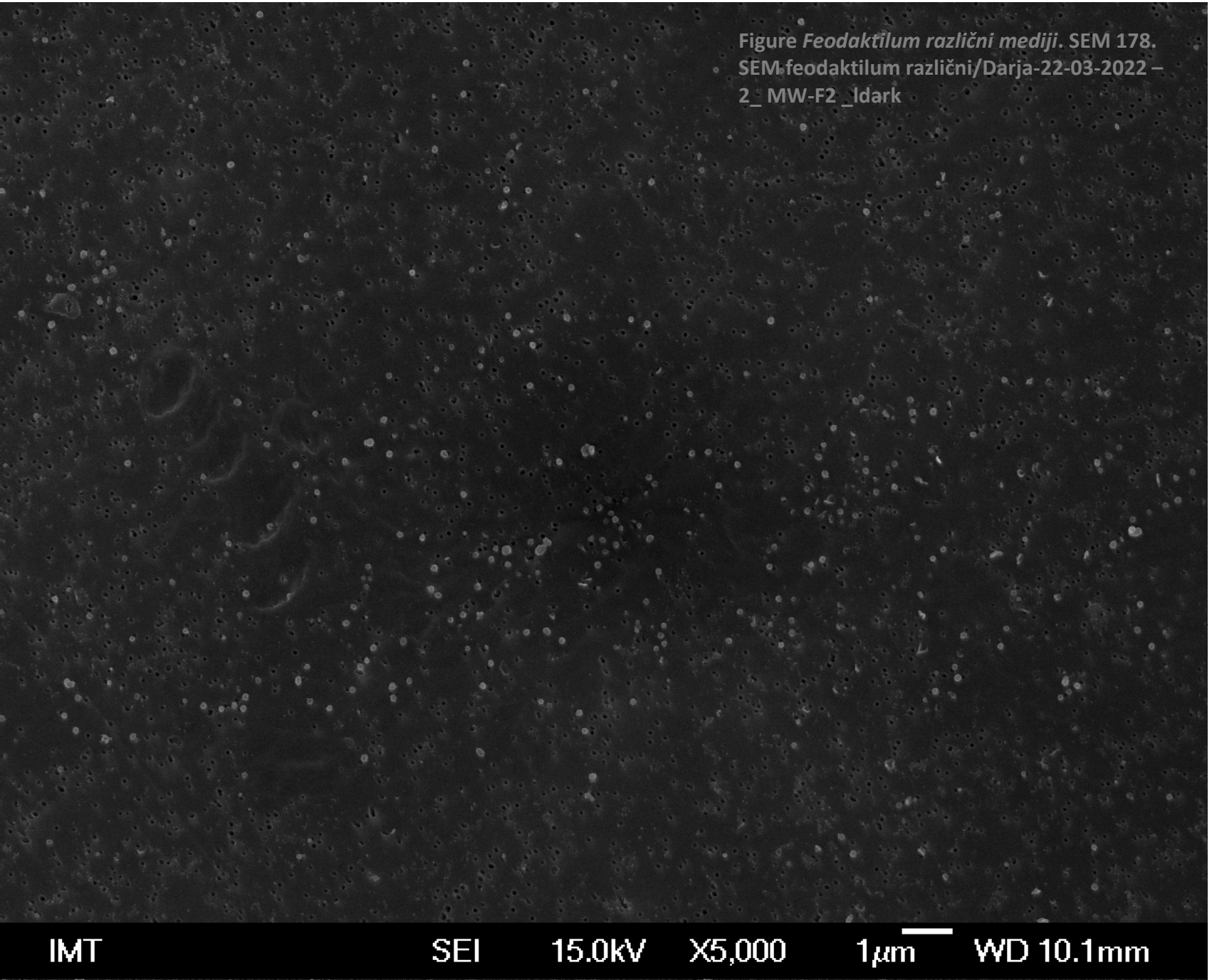

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 23.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

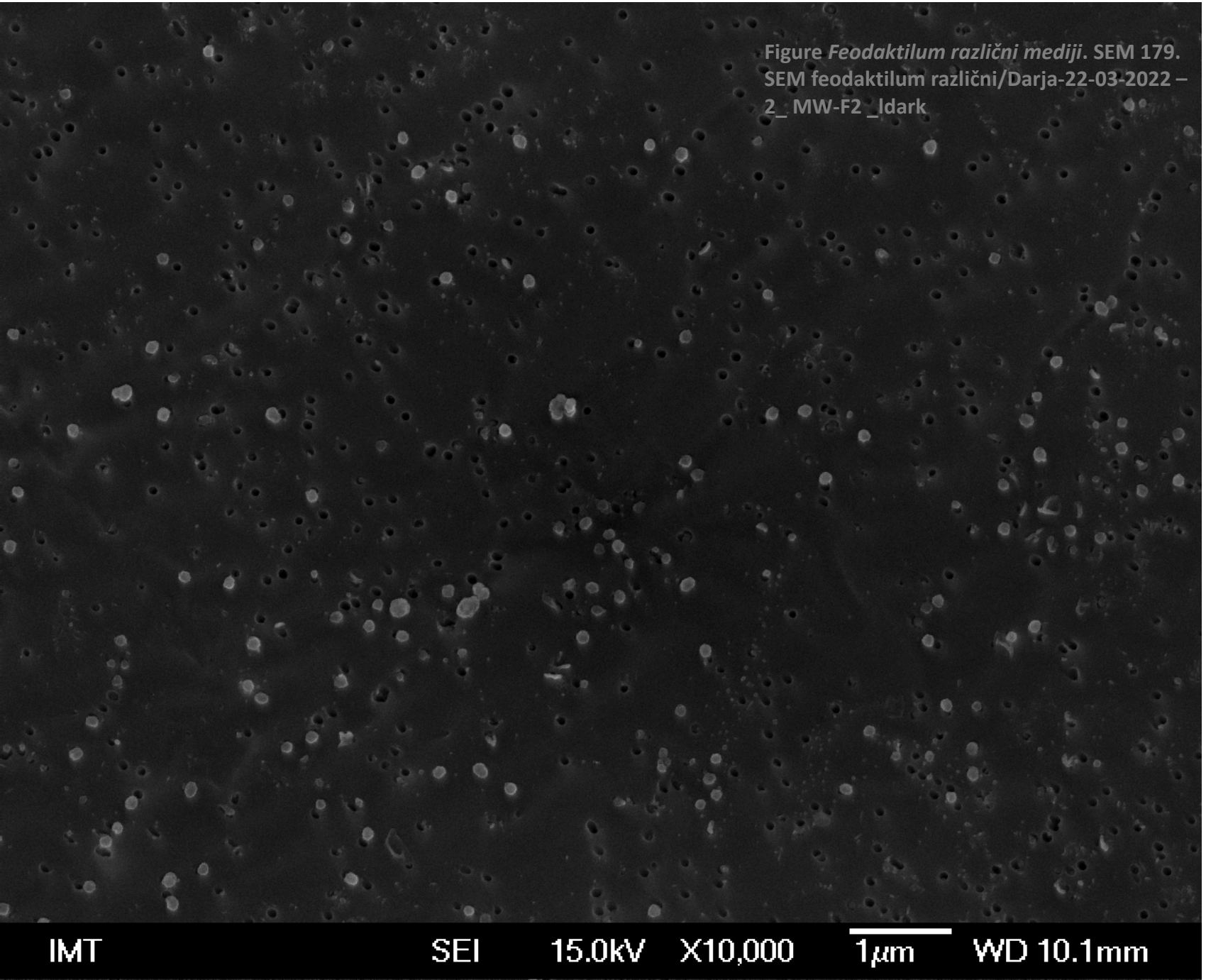

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 24.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

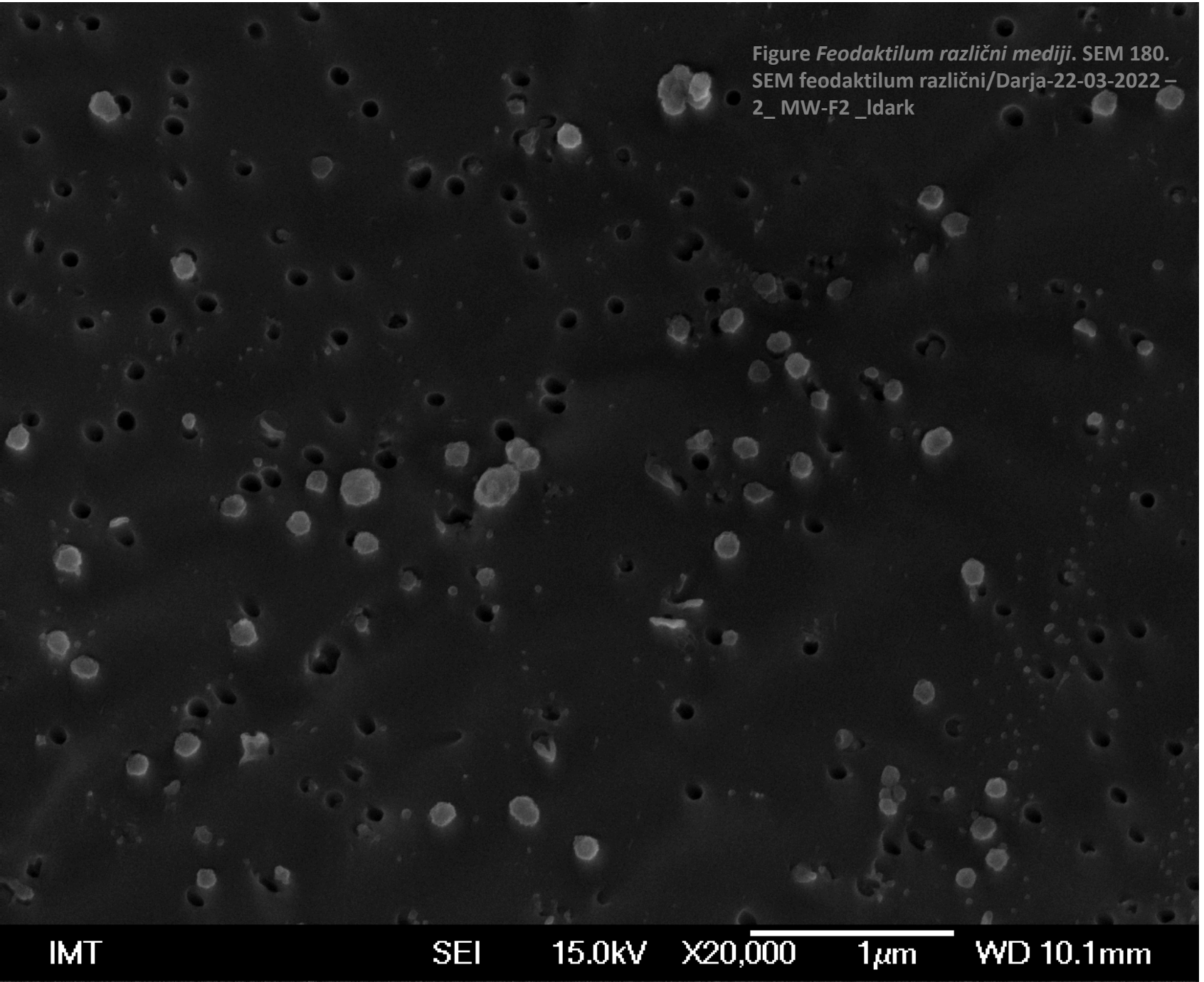

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 25.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

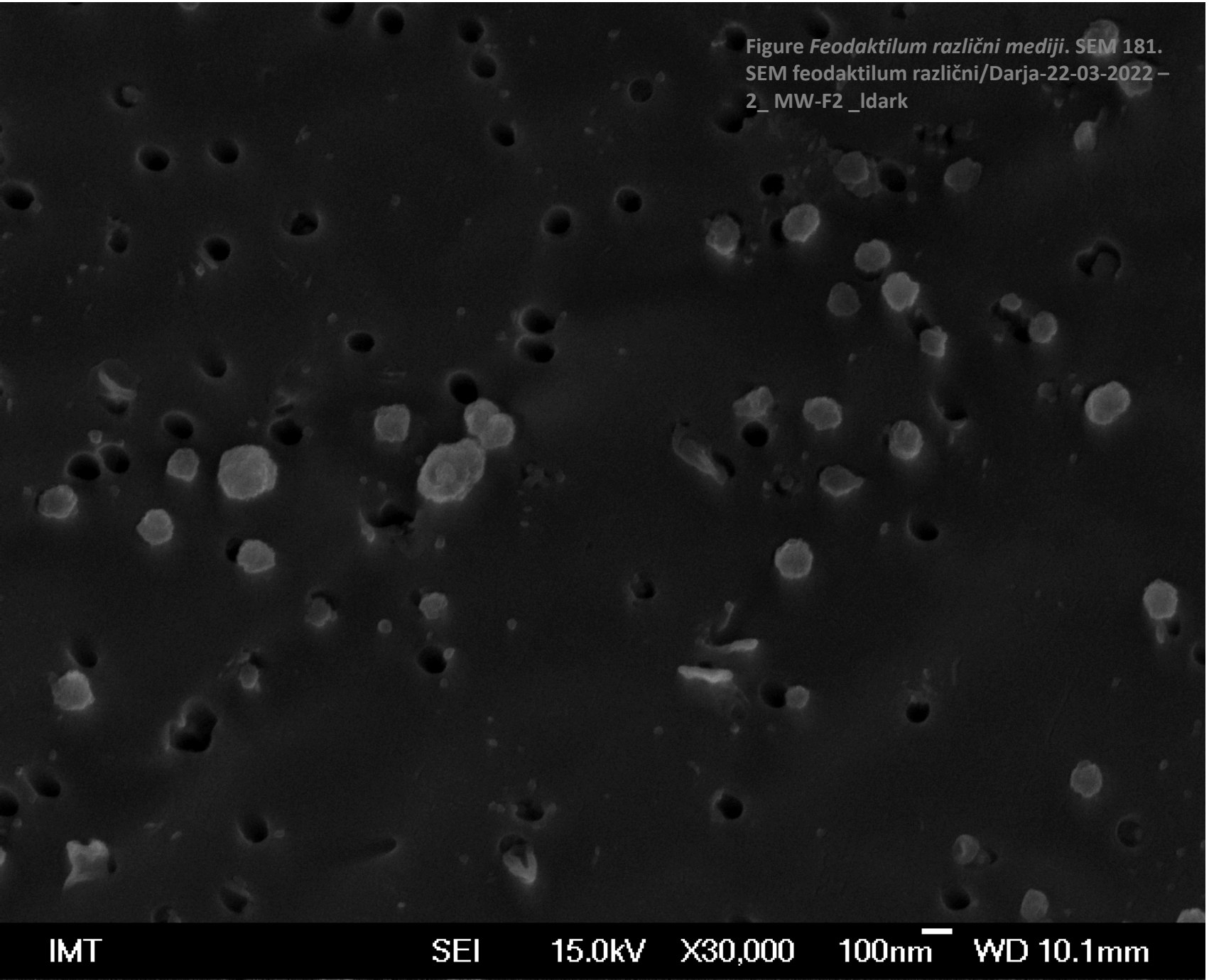

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 26.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

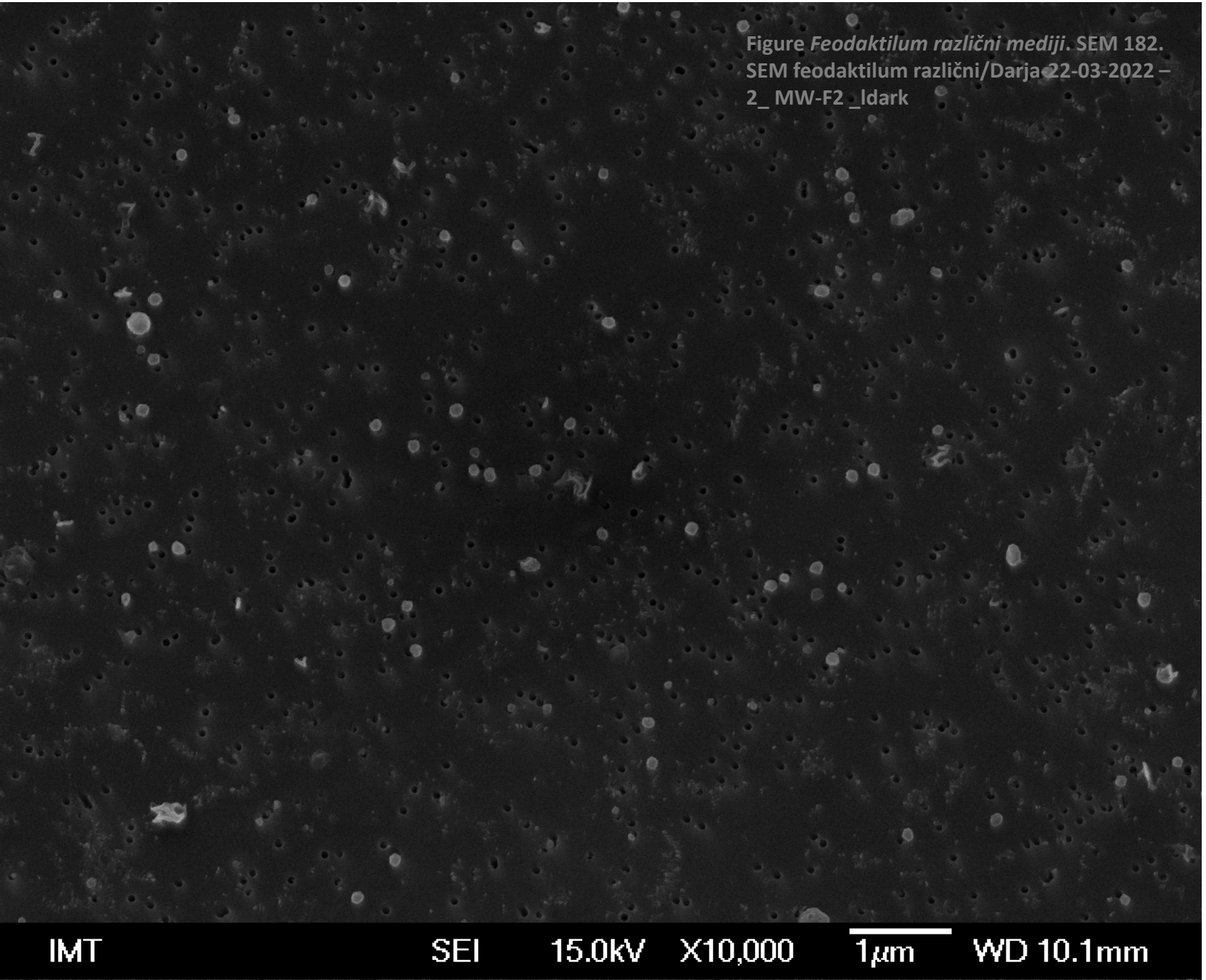

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 27.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

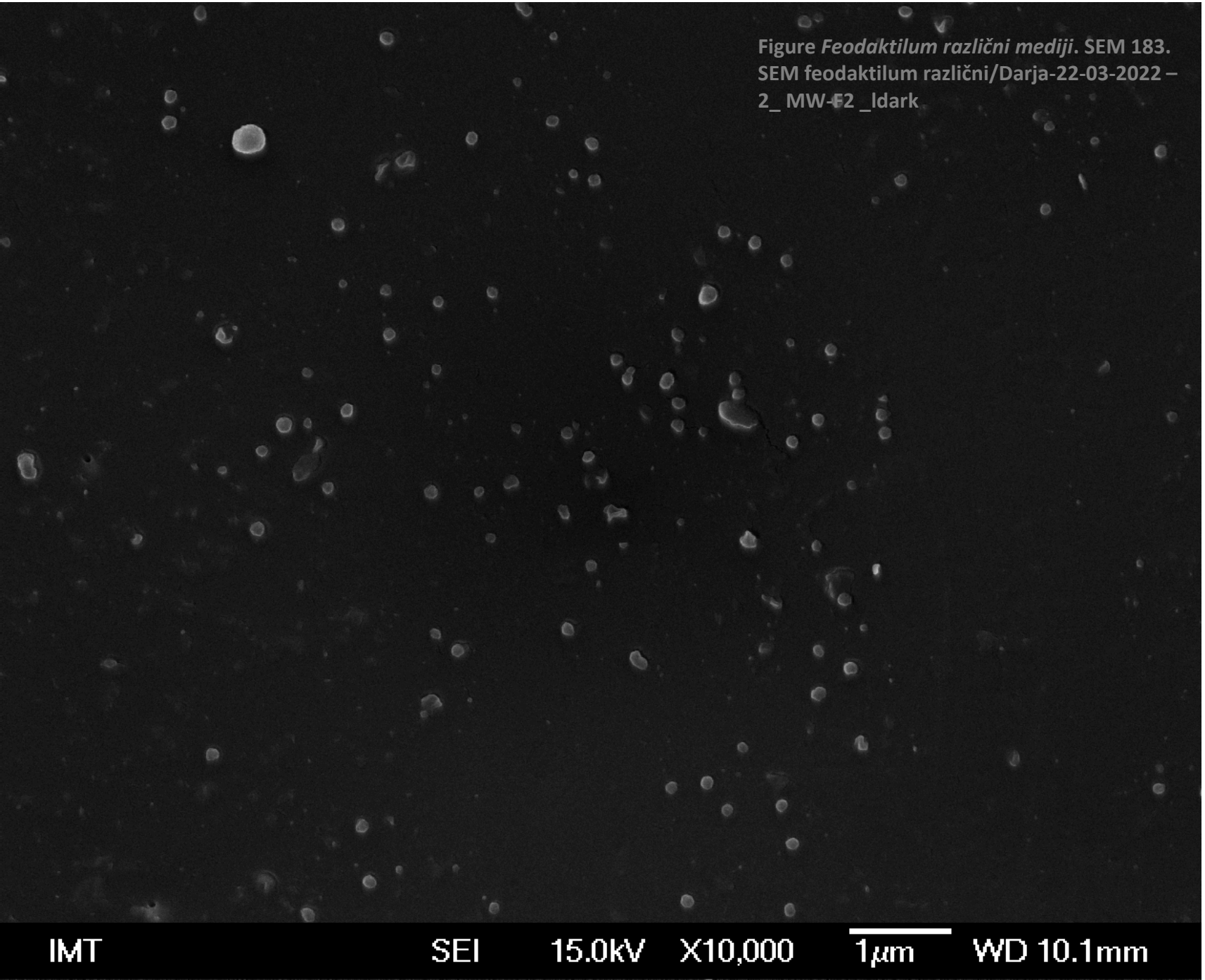

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 28.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

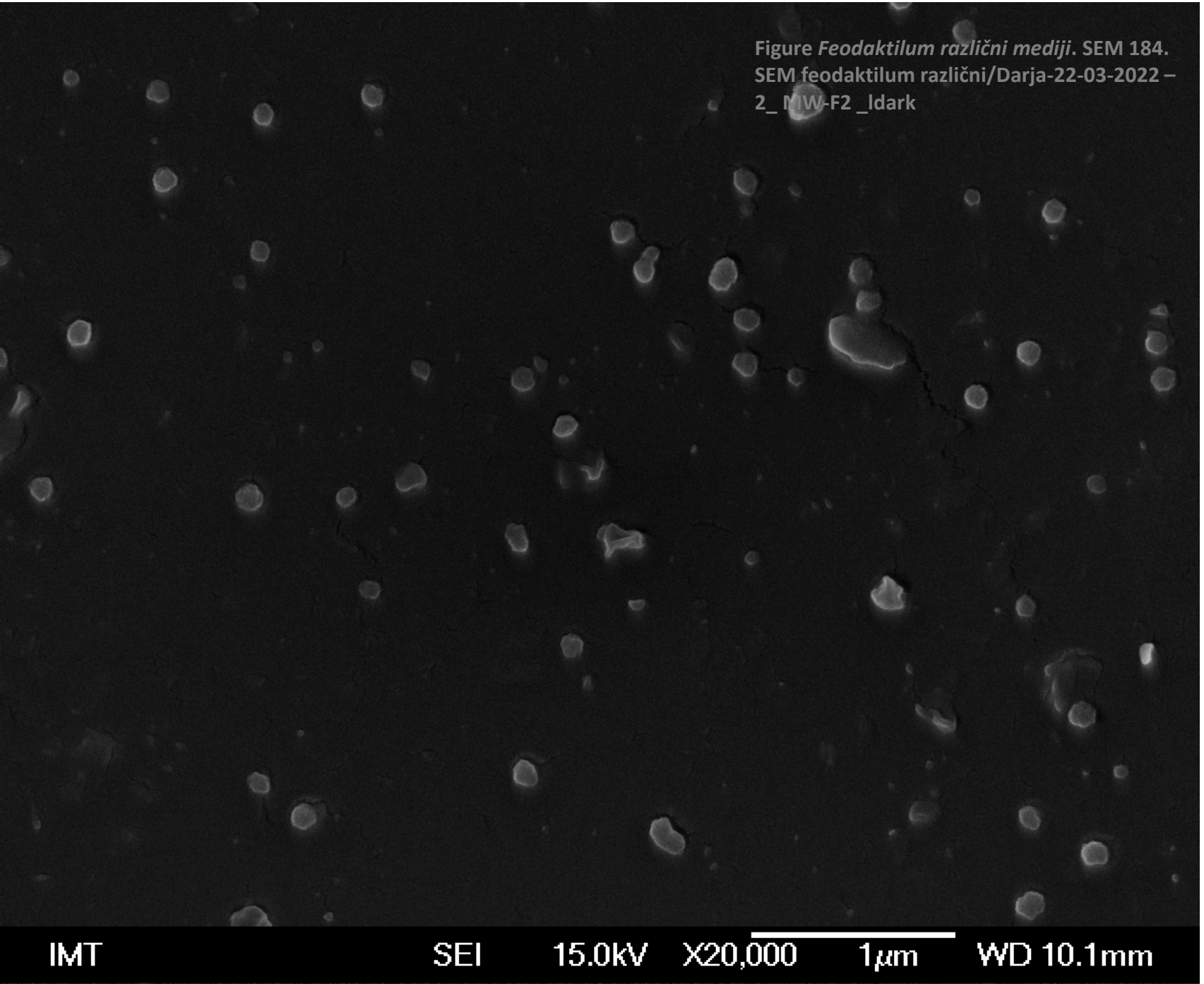

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 29.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

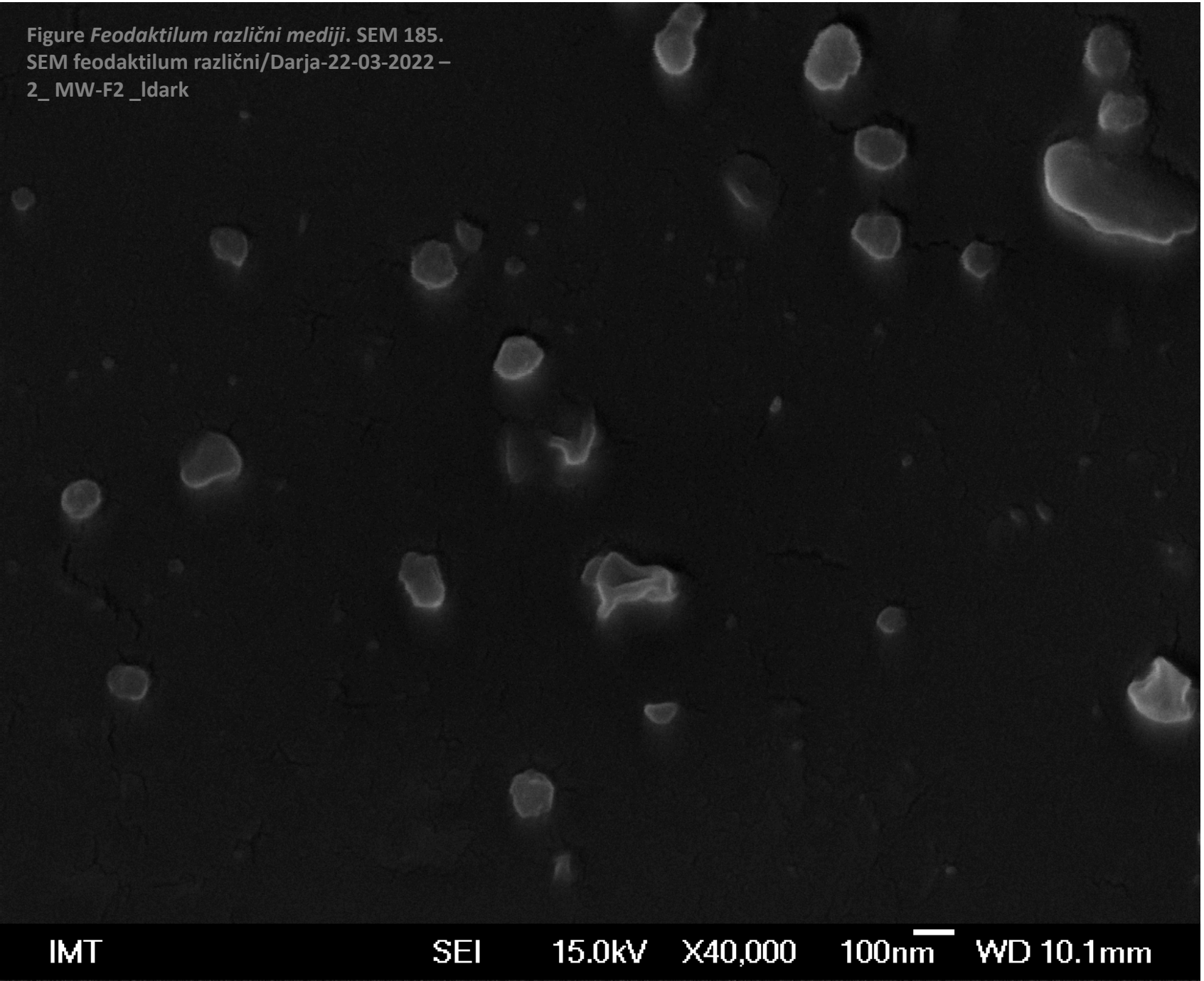

Figure *Feodaktilum različni mediji*. SEM 185.
SEM feodaktilum različni/Darja-22-03-2022 – 2_ MW-F2 _ldark

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 30.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

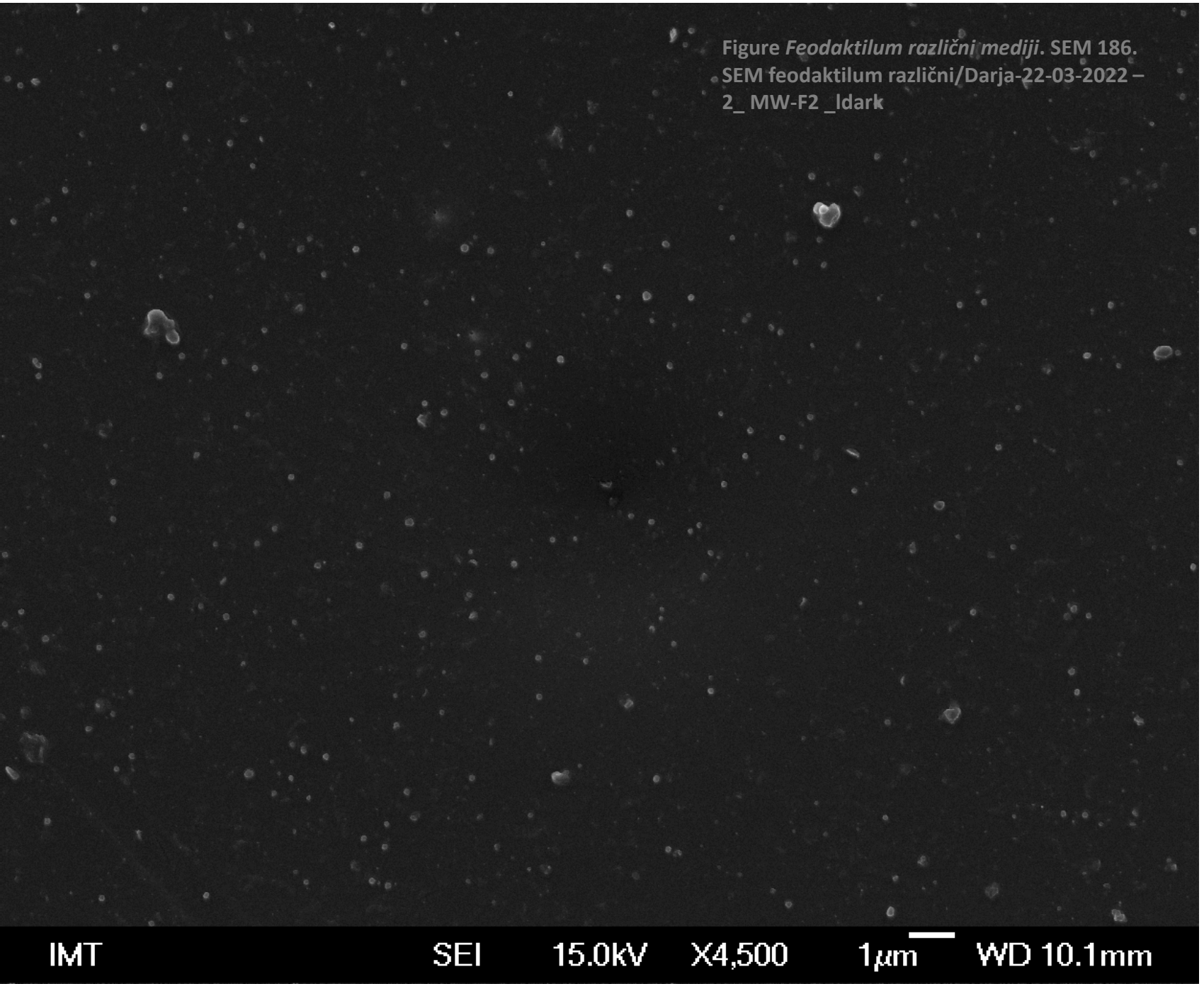

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 31.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

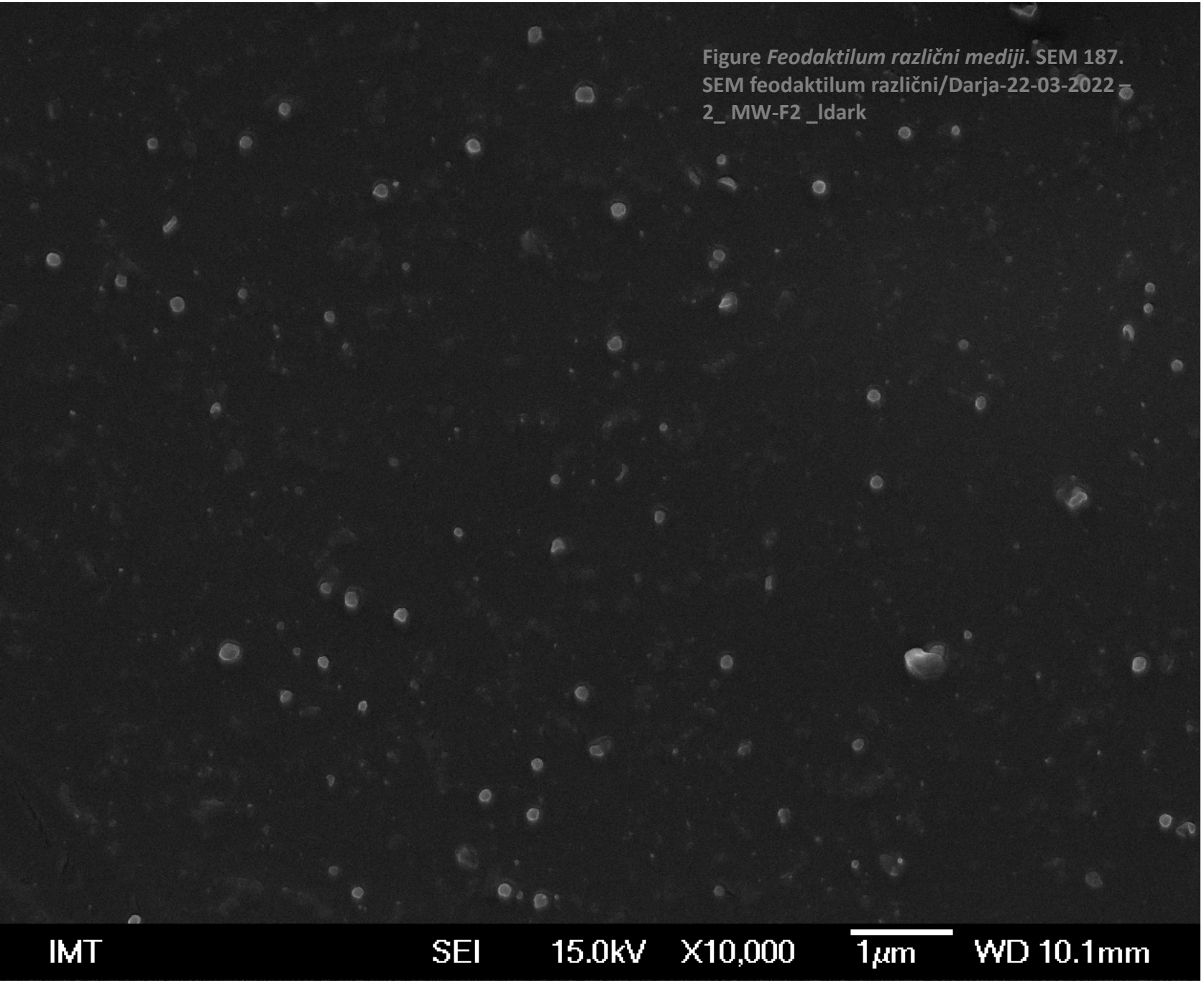

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 32.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

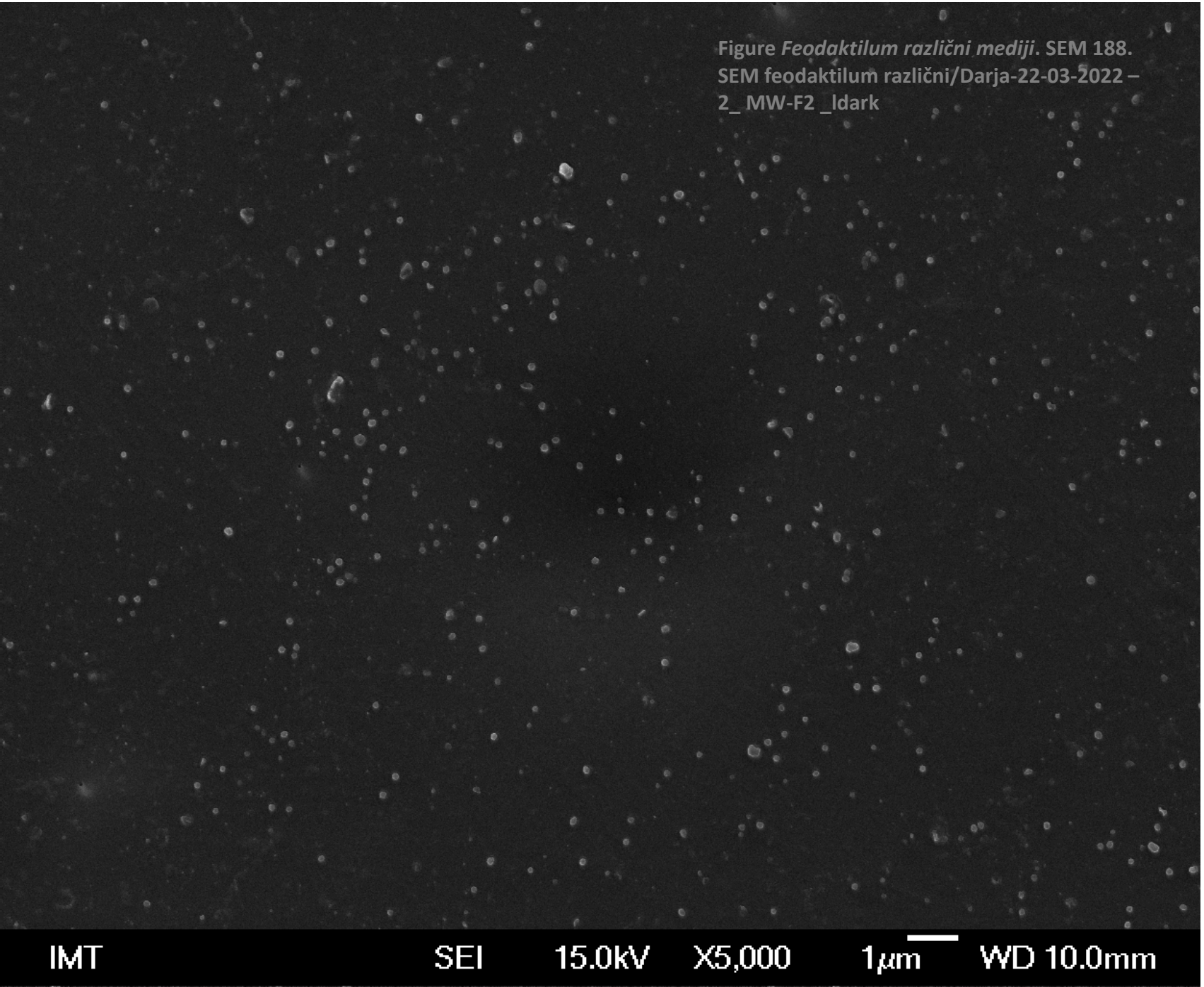

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 33.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

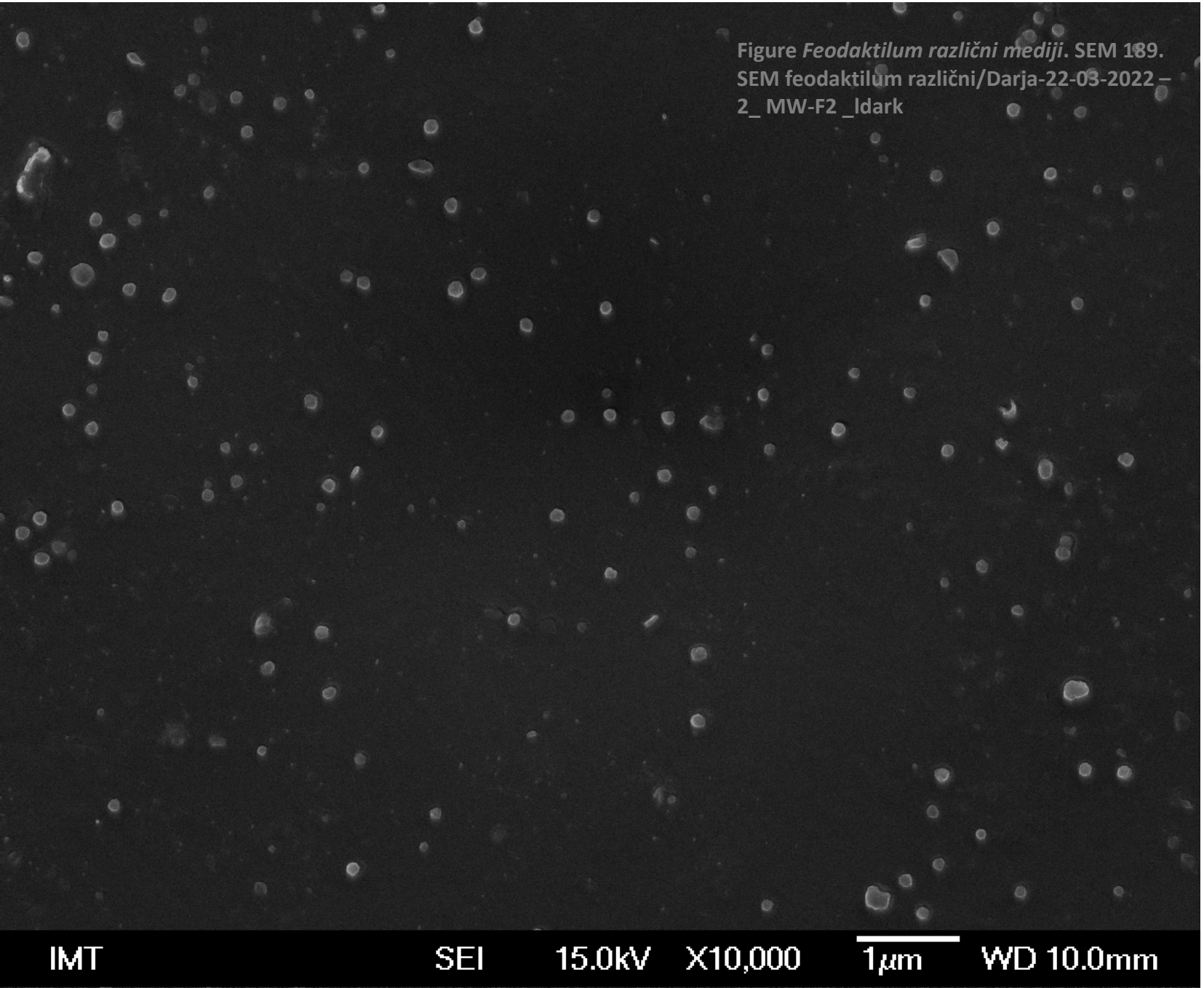

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 34.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

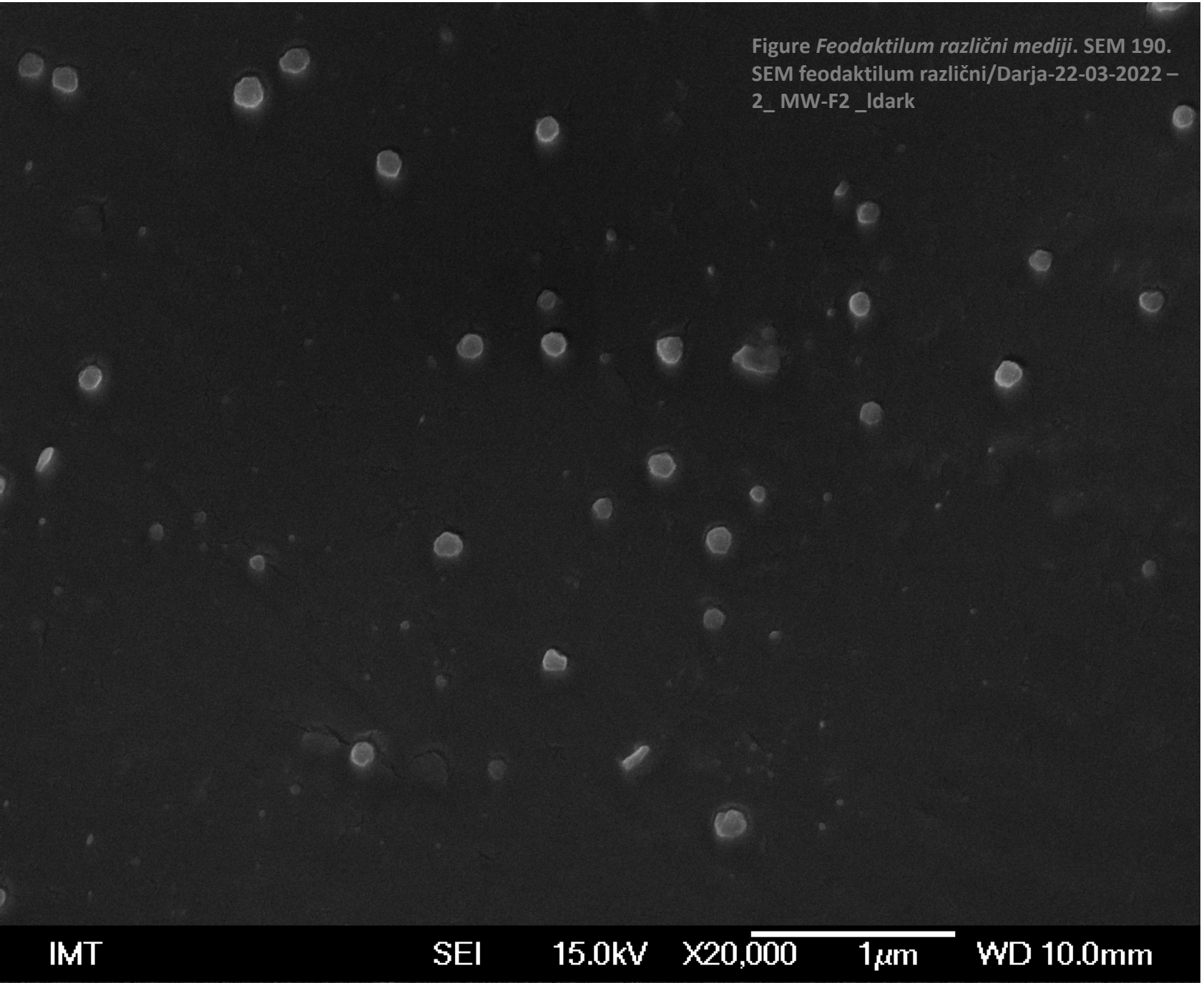

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 35.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

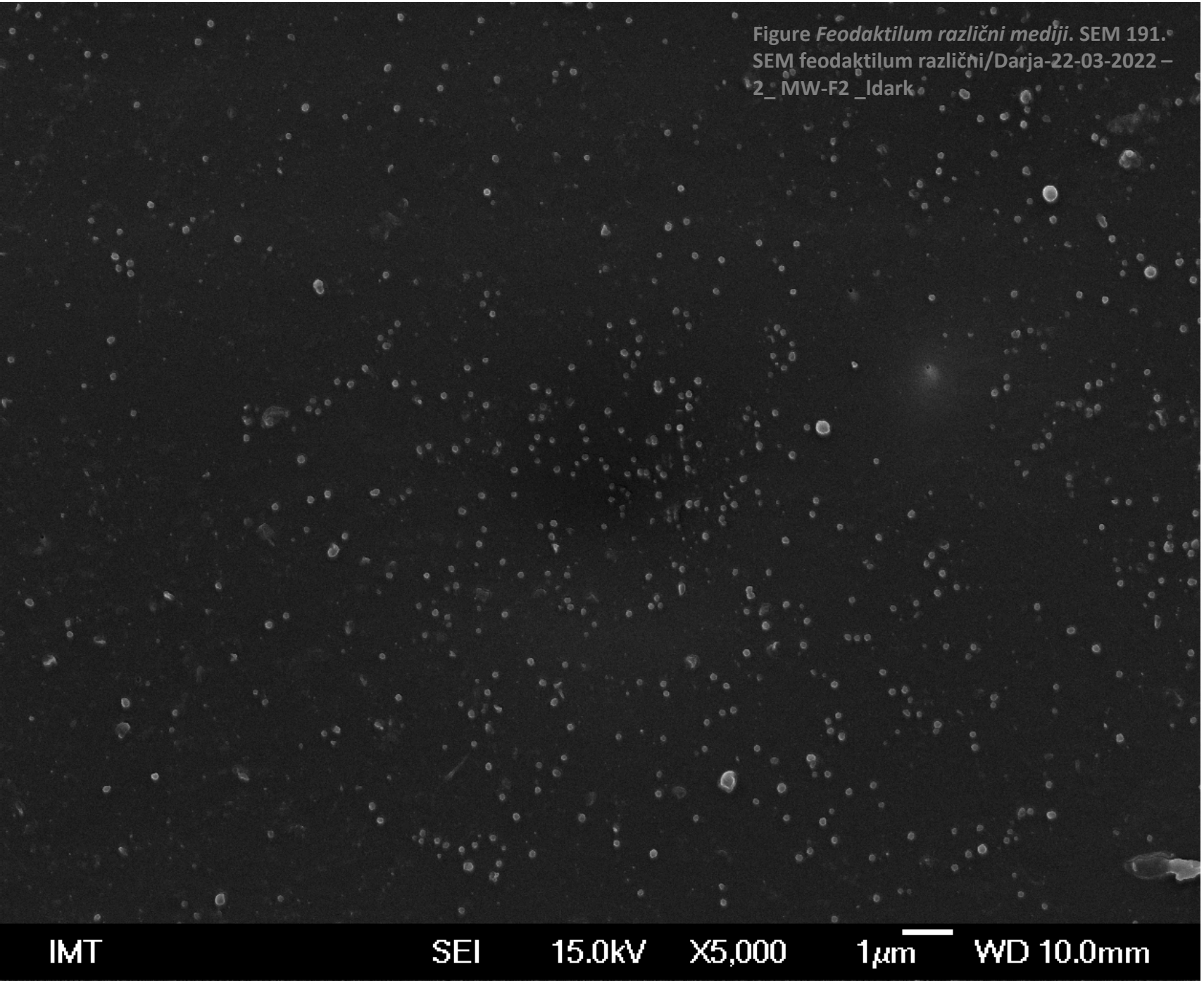

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 36.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

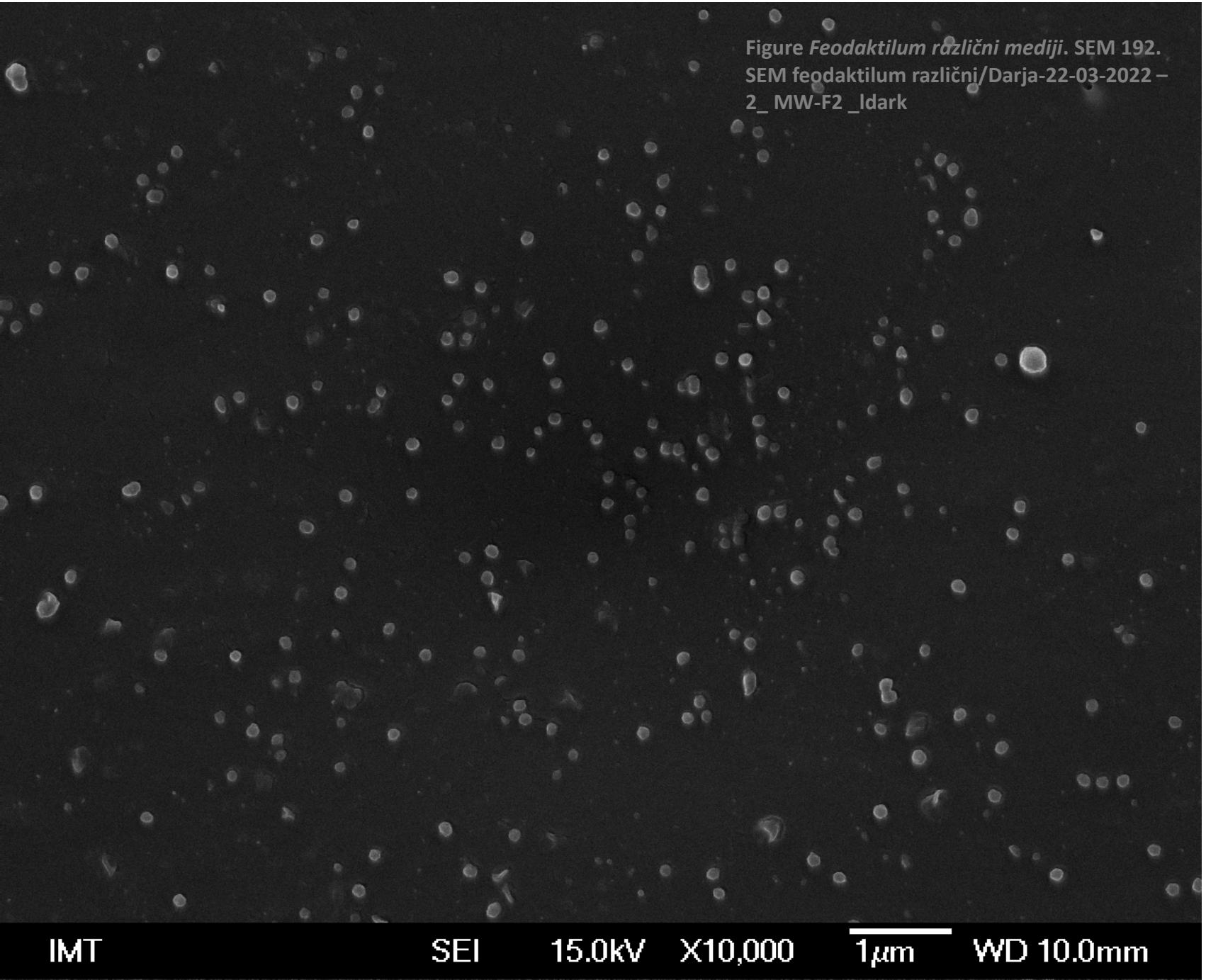

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 37.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

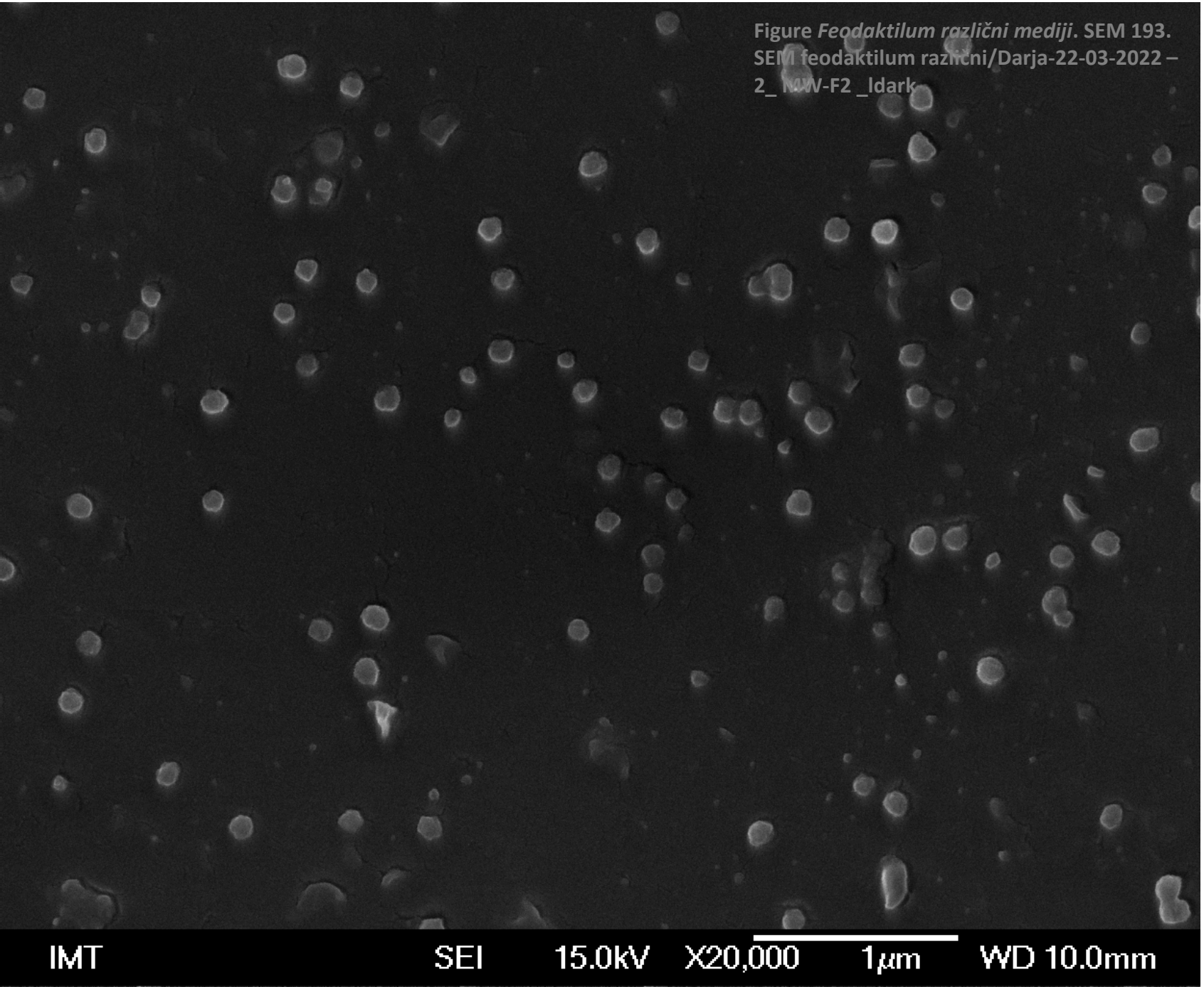

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 38.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

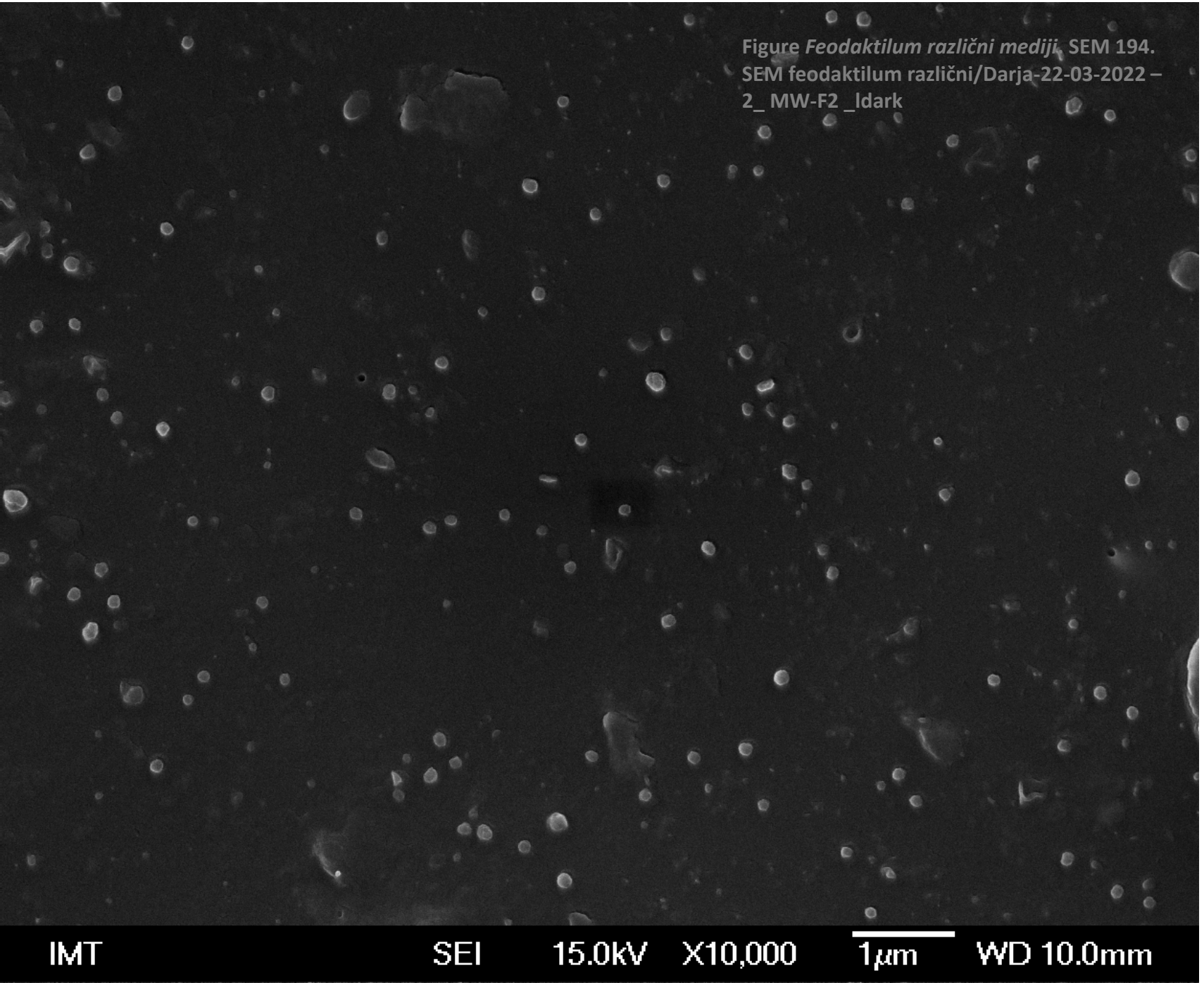

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 39.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

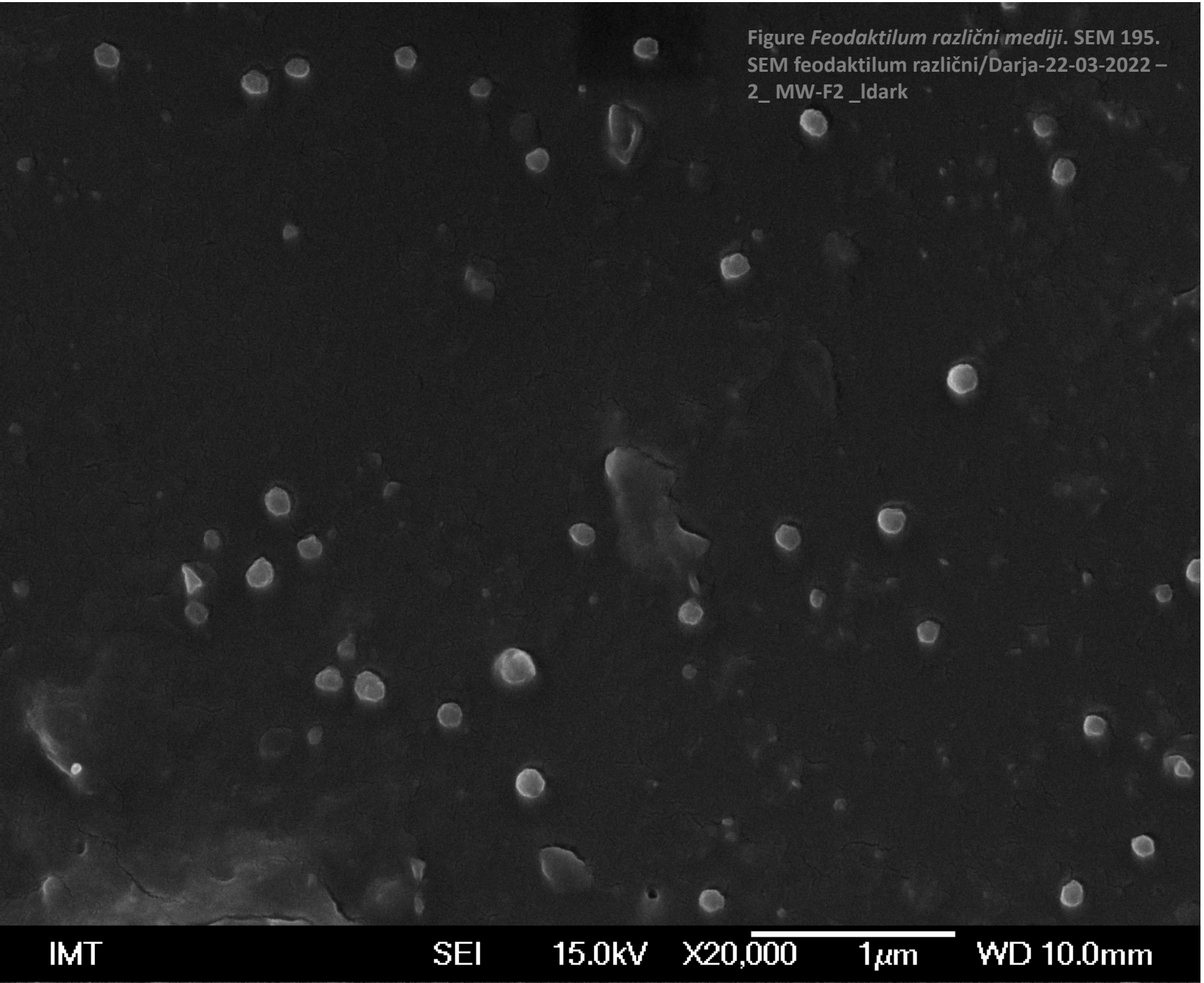

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate F2 D SEM 40.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

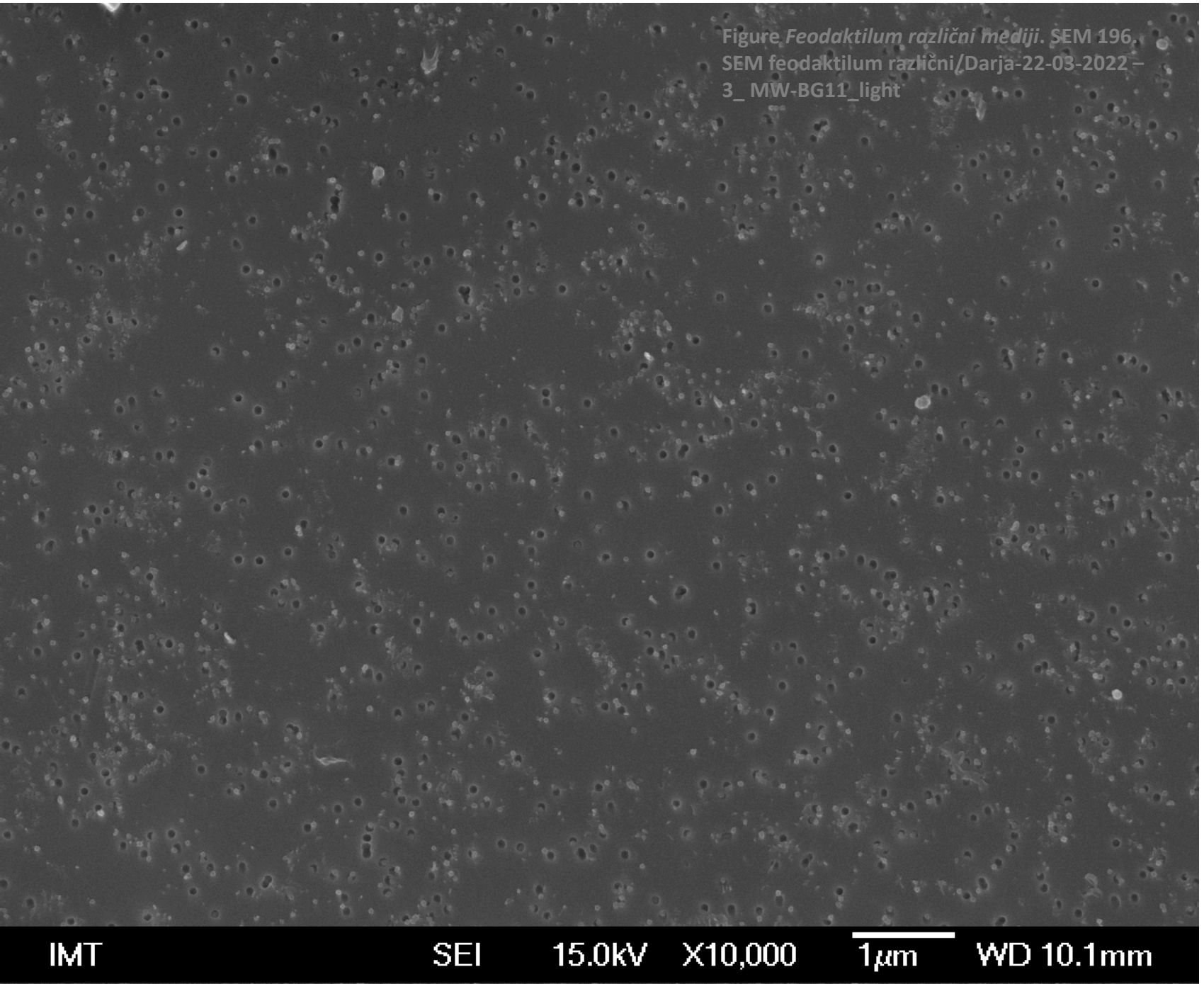

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 41.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with BG11 (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA). Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, SCPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

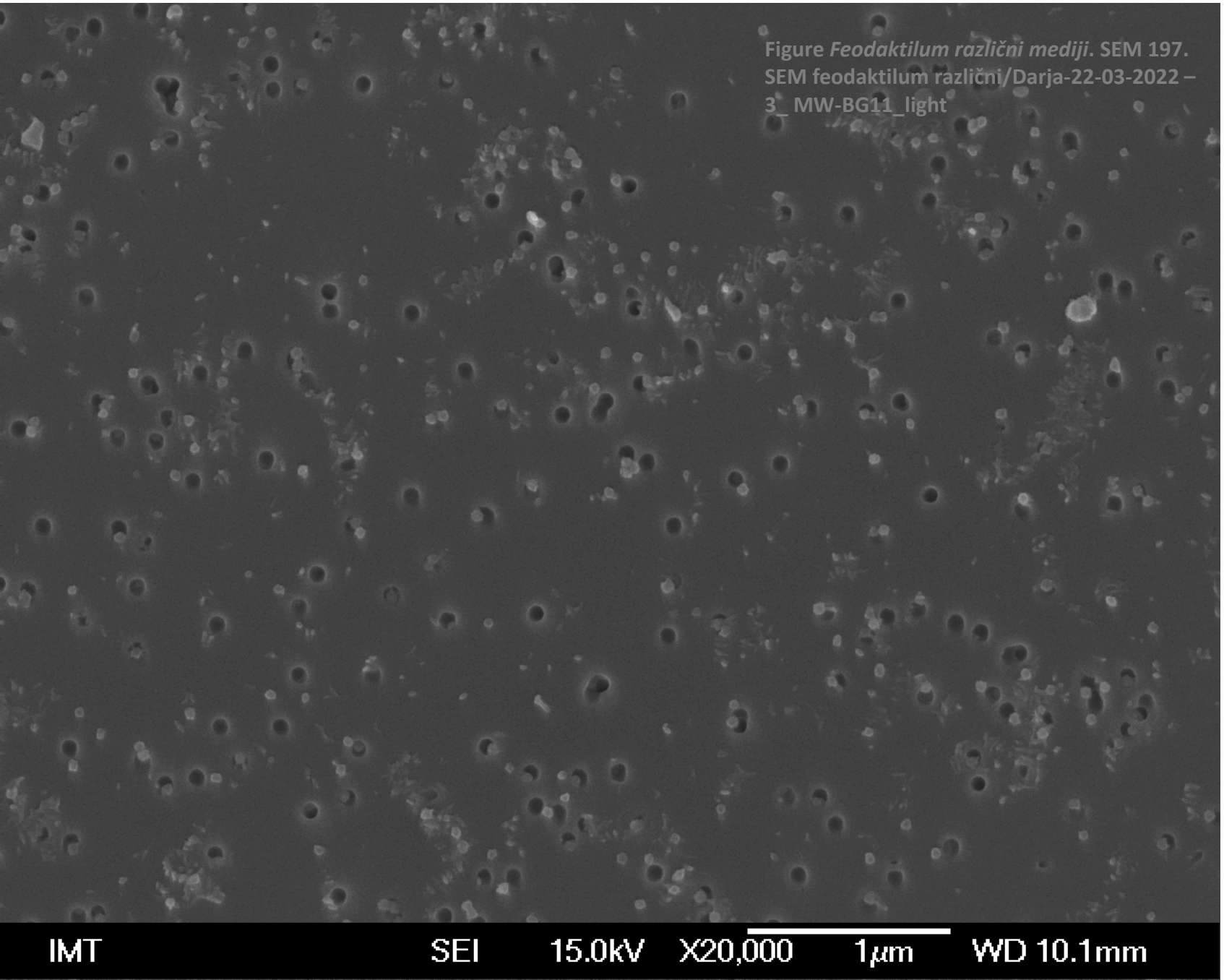

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 42.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

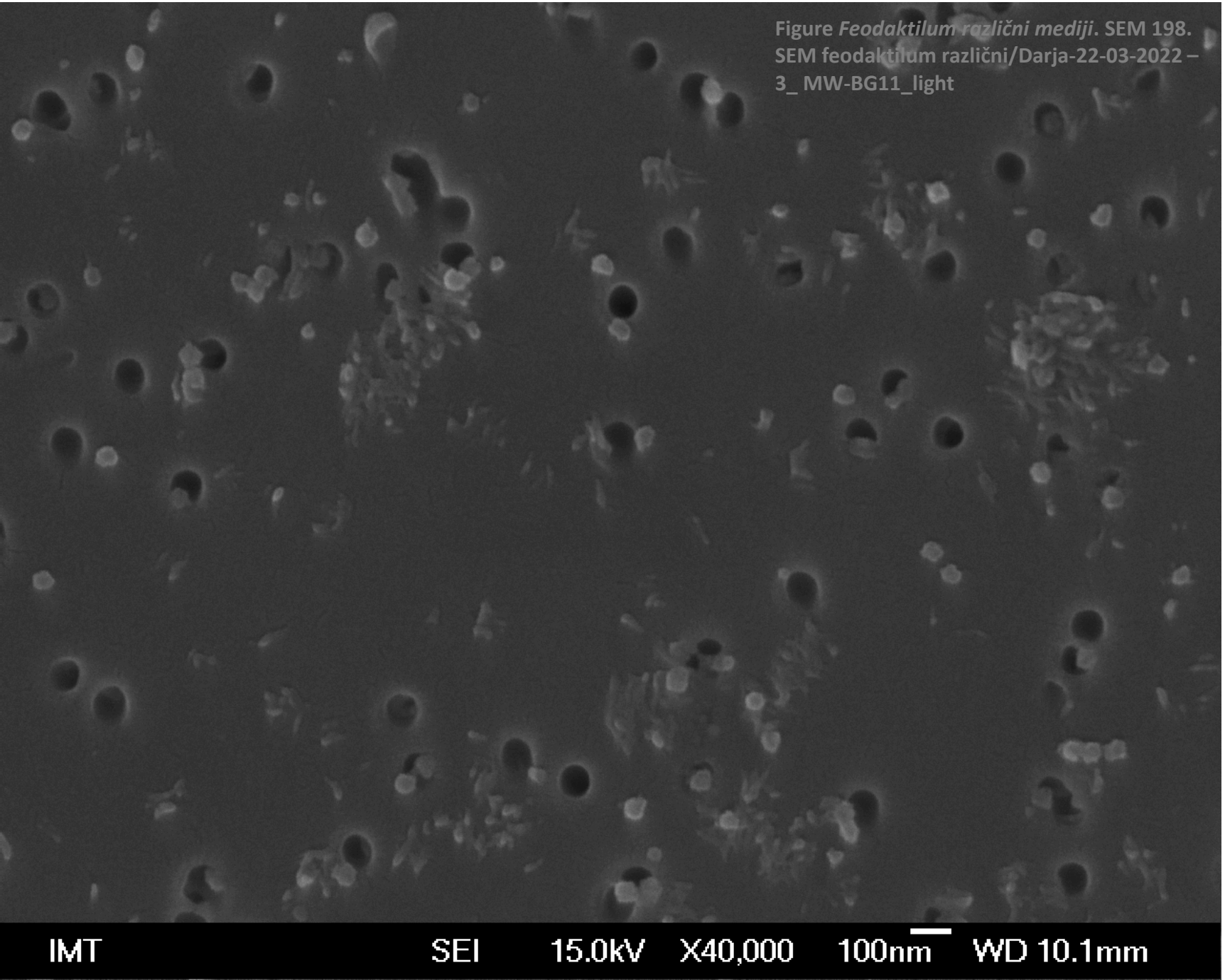

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 43.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

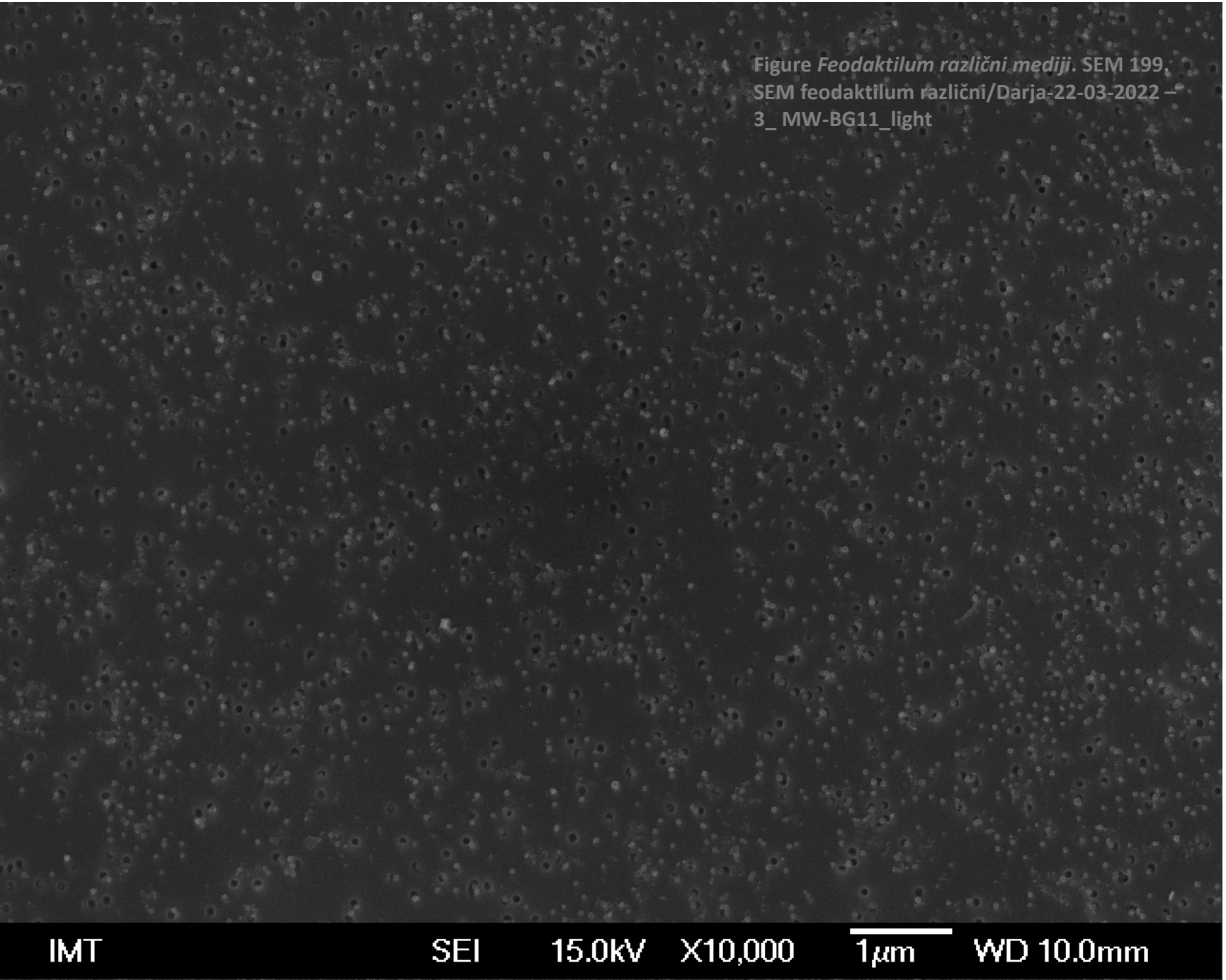

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 44.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

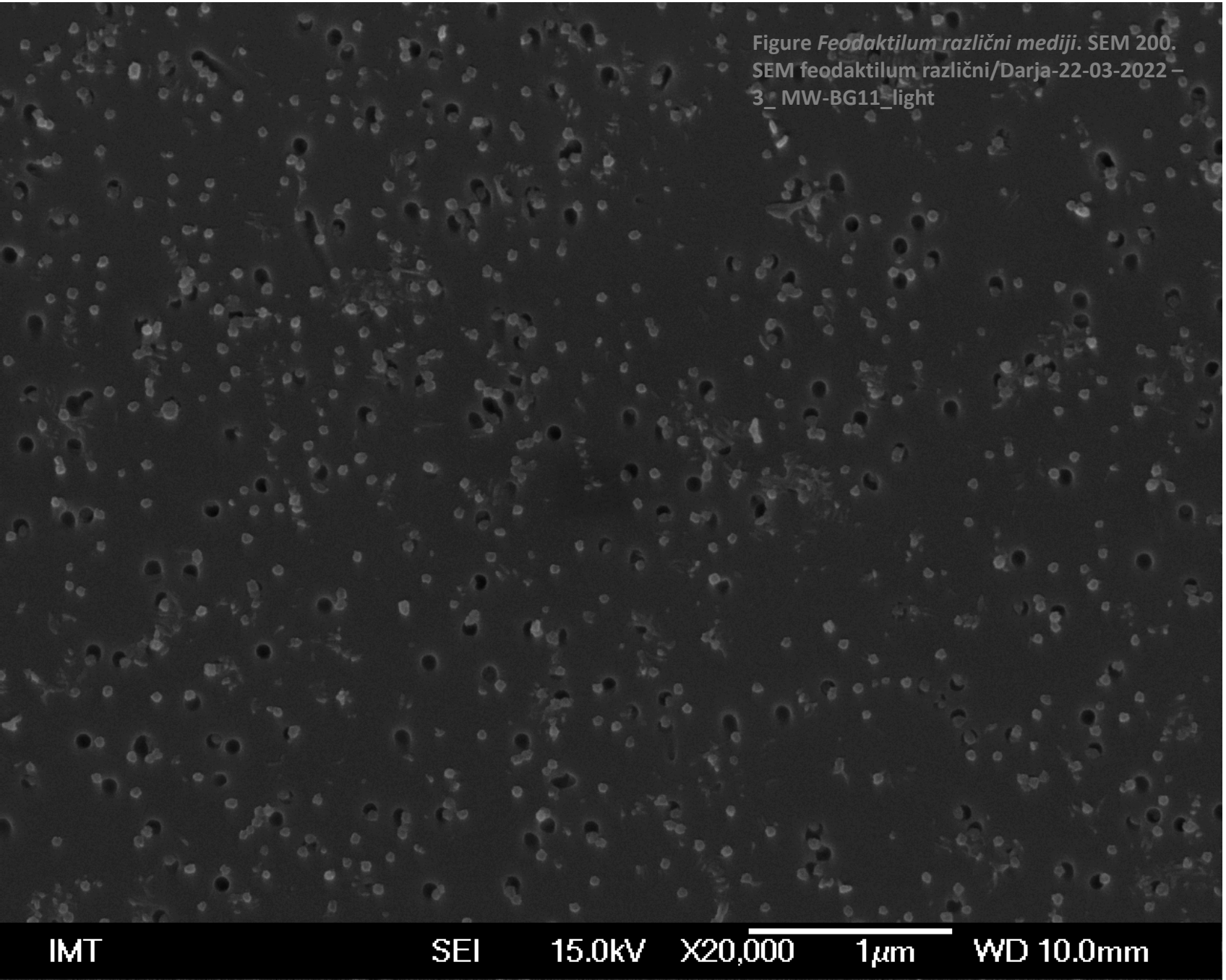

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 45.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

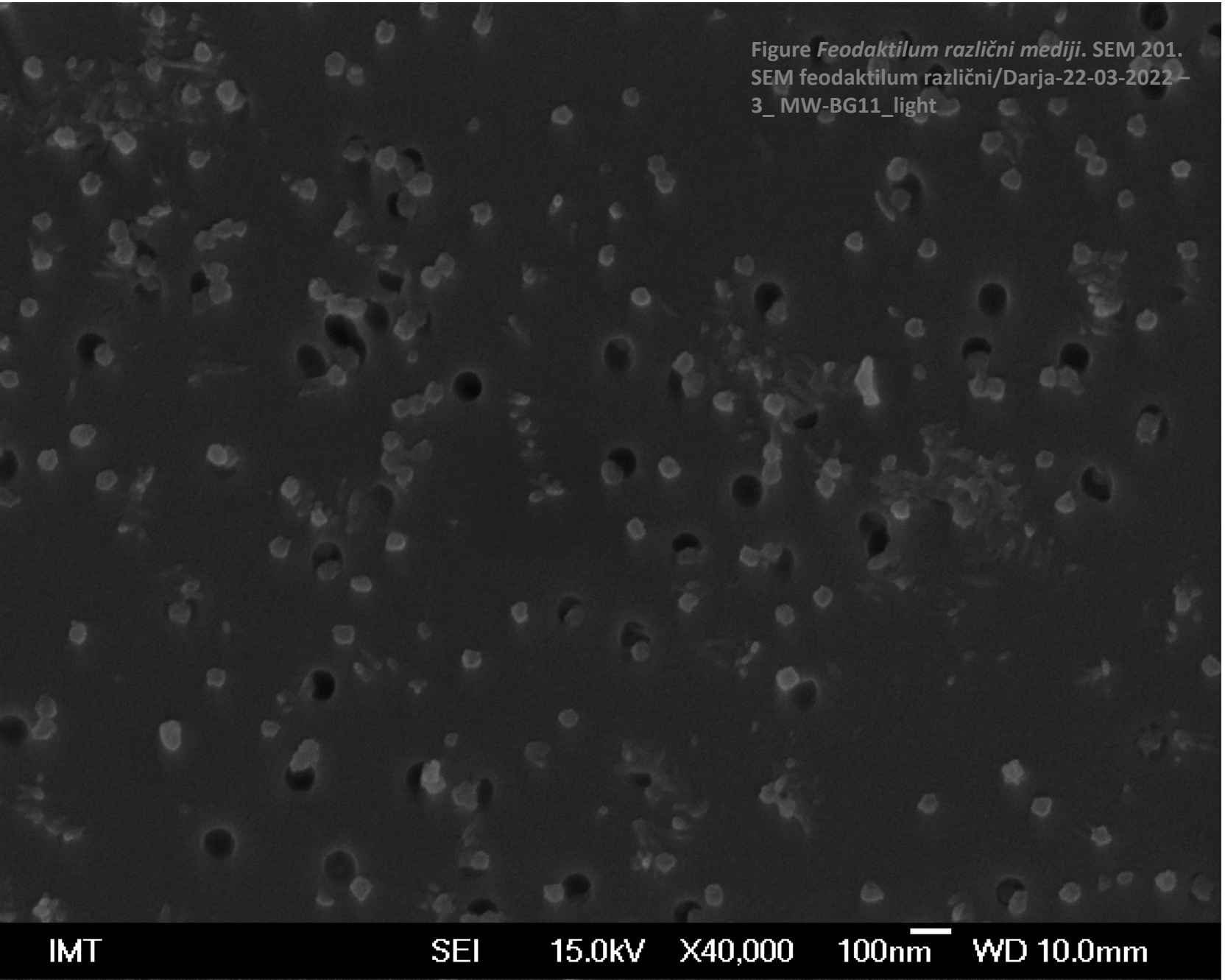

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 46.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

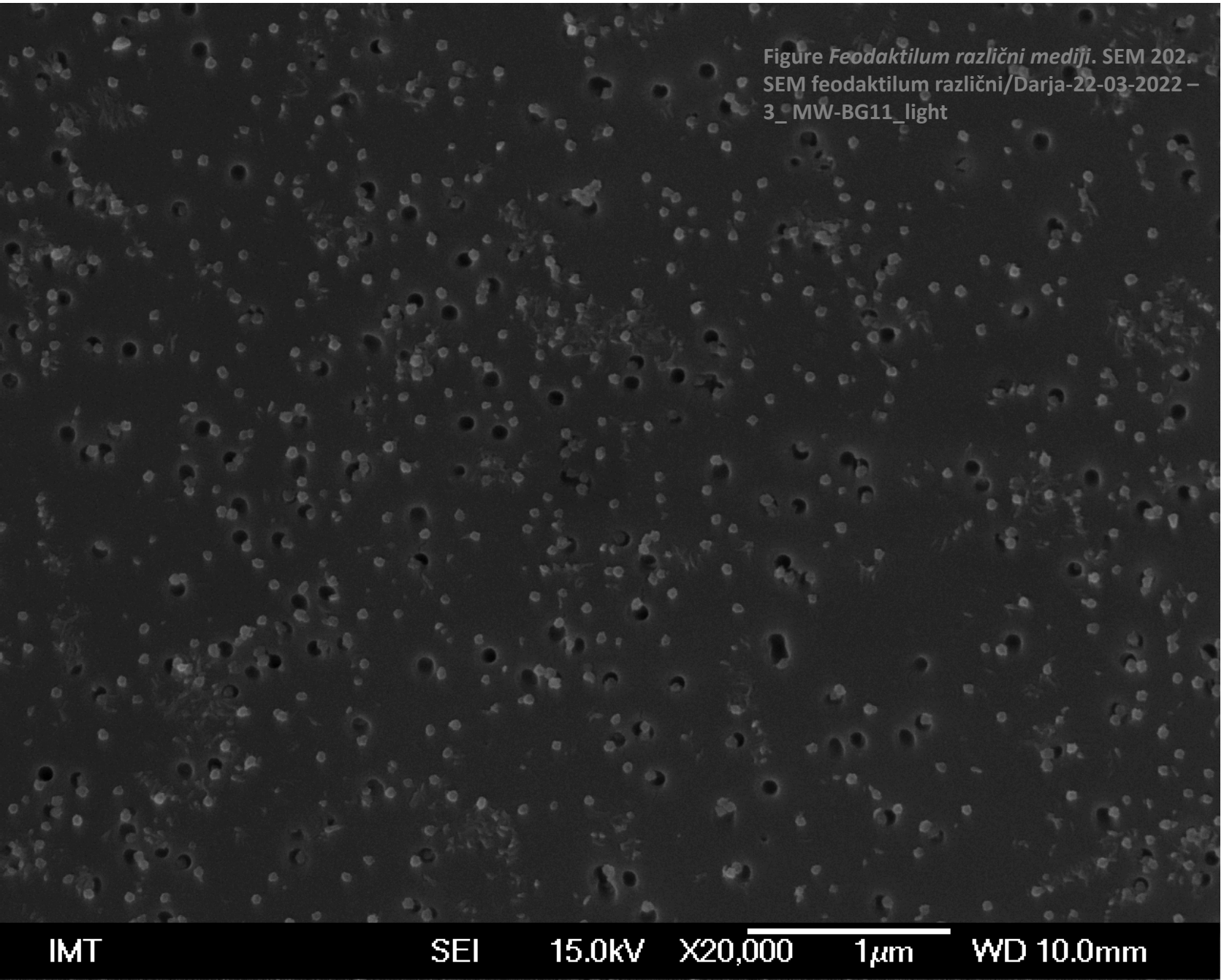

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 47.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

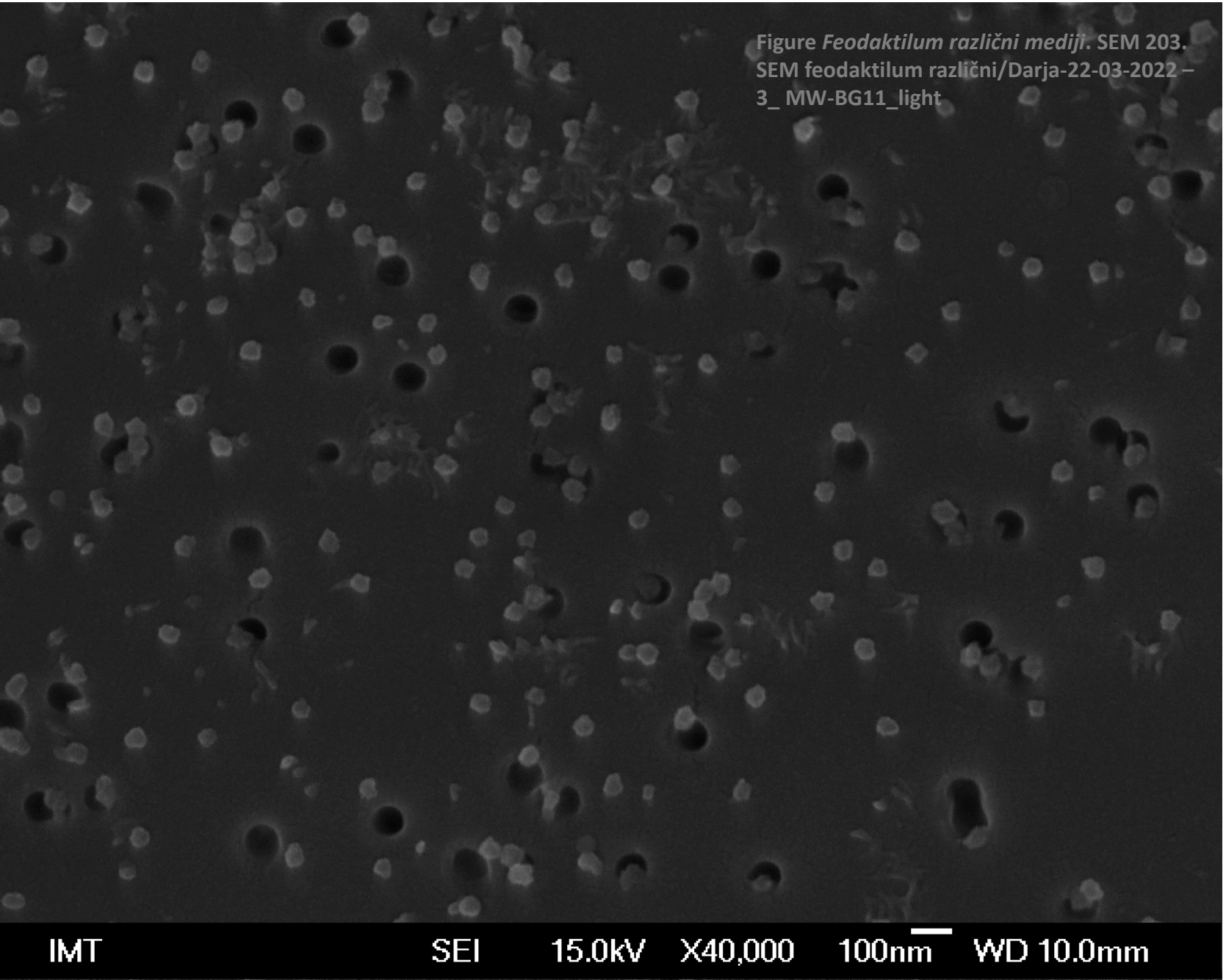

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 48.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

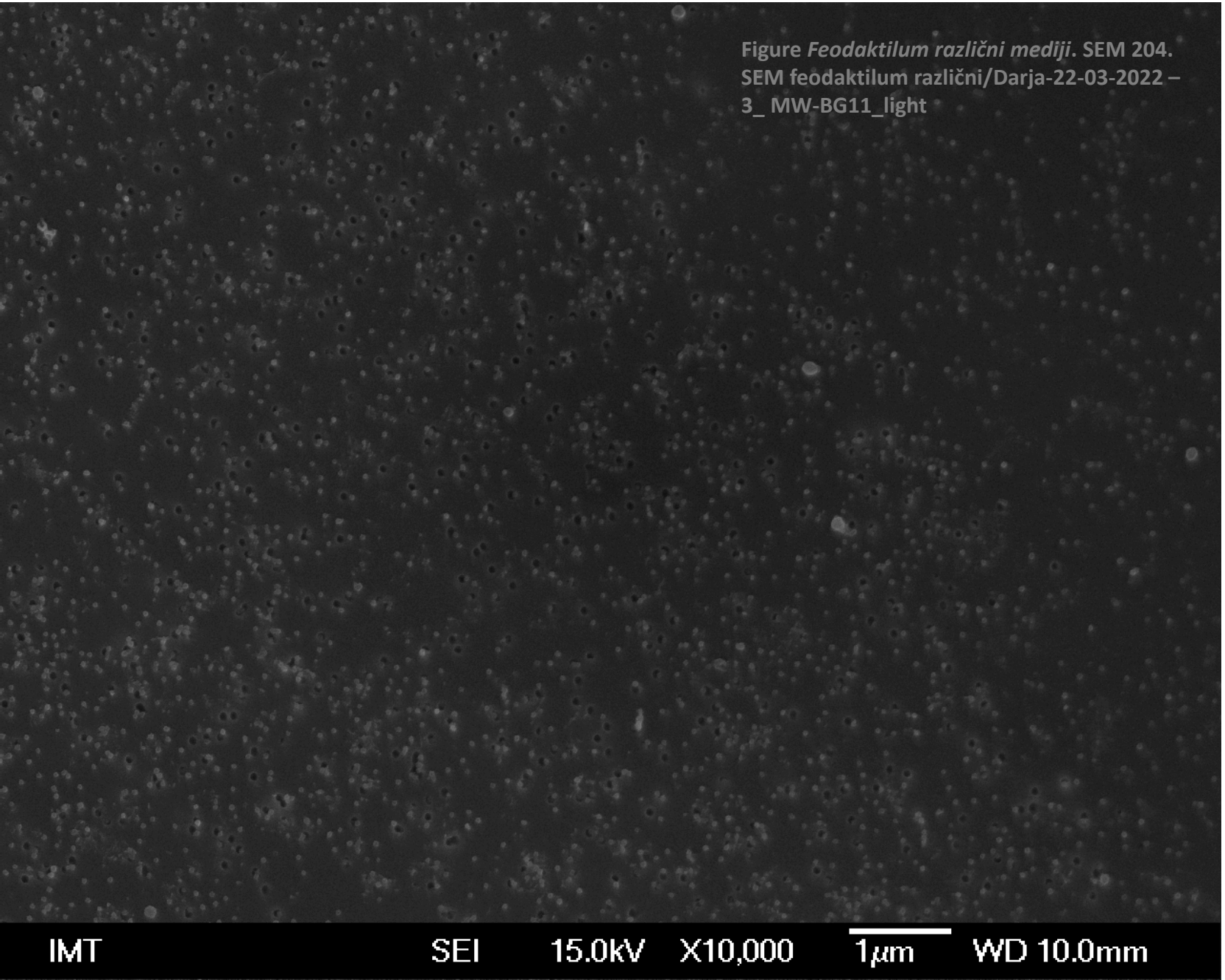

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 49.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

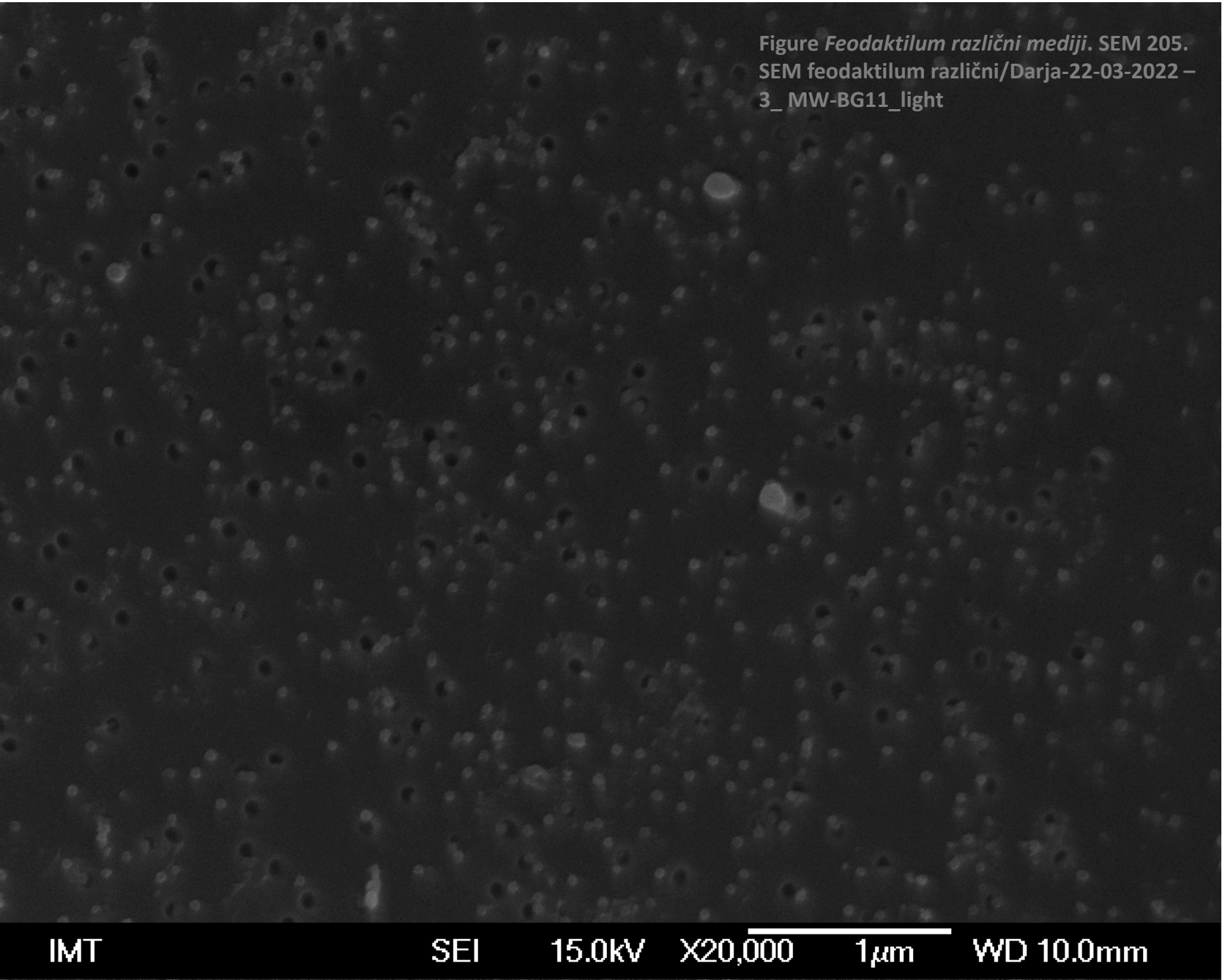

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 50.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

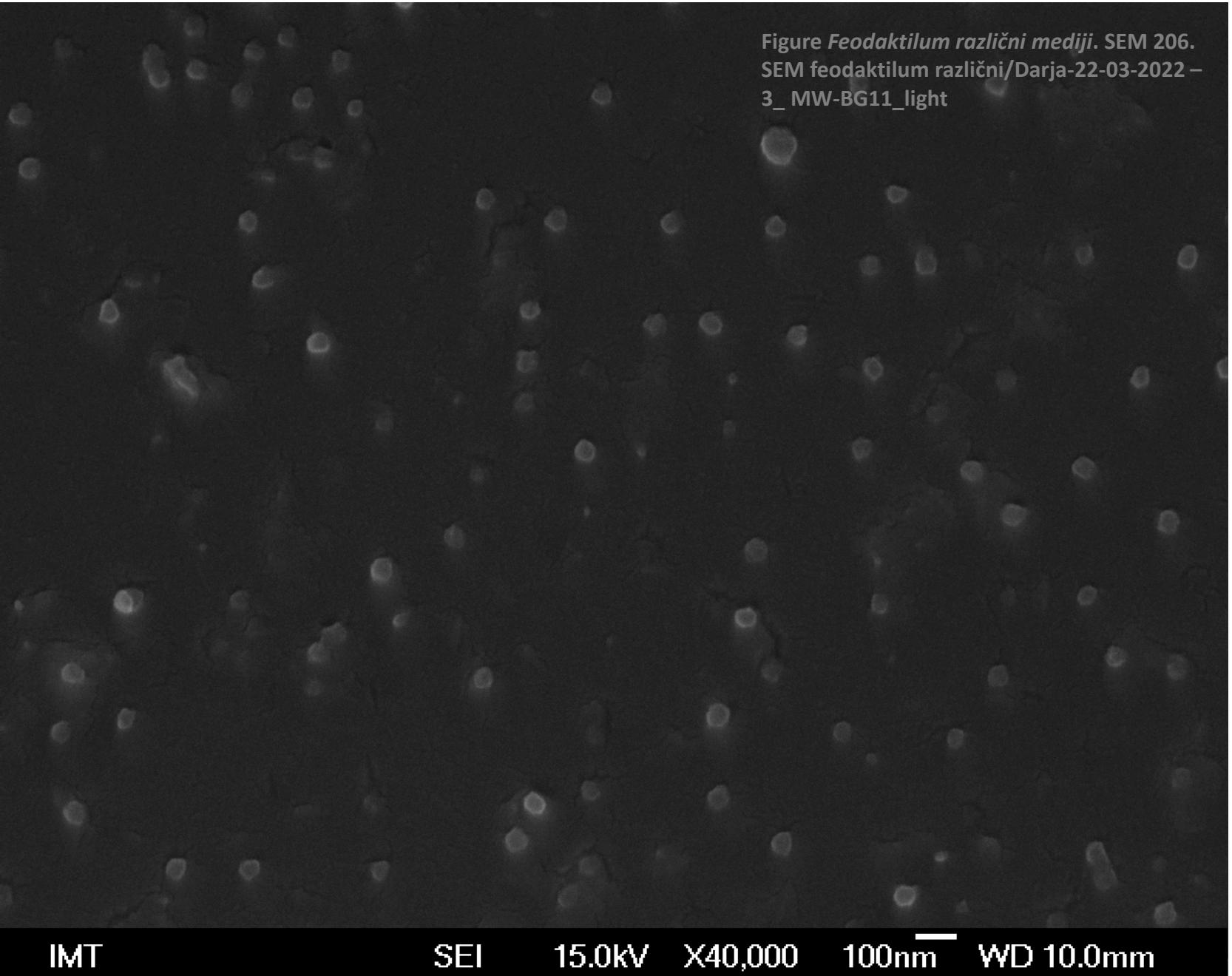

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 51.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 µmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

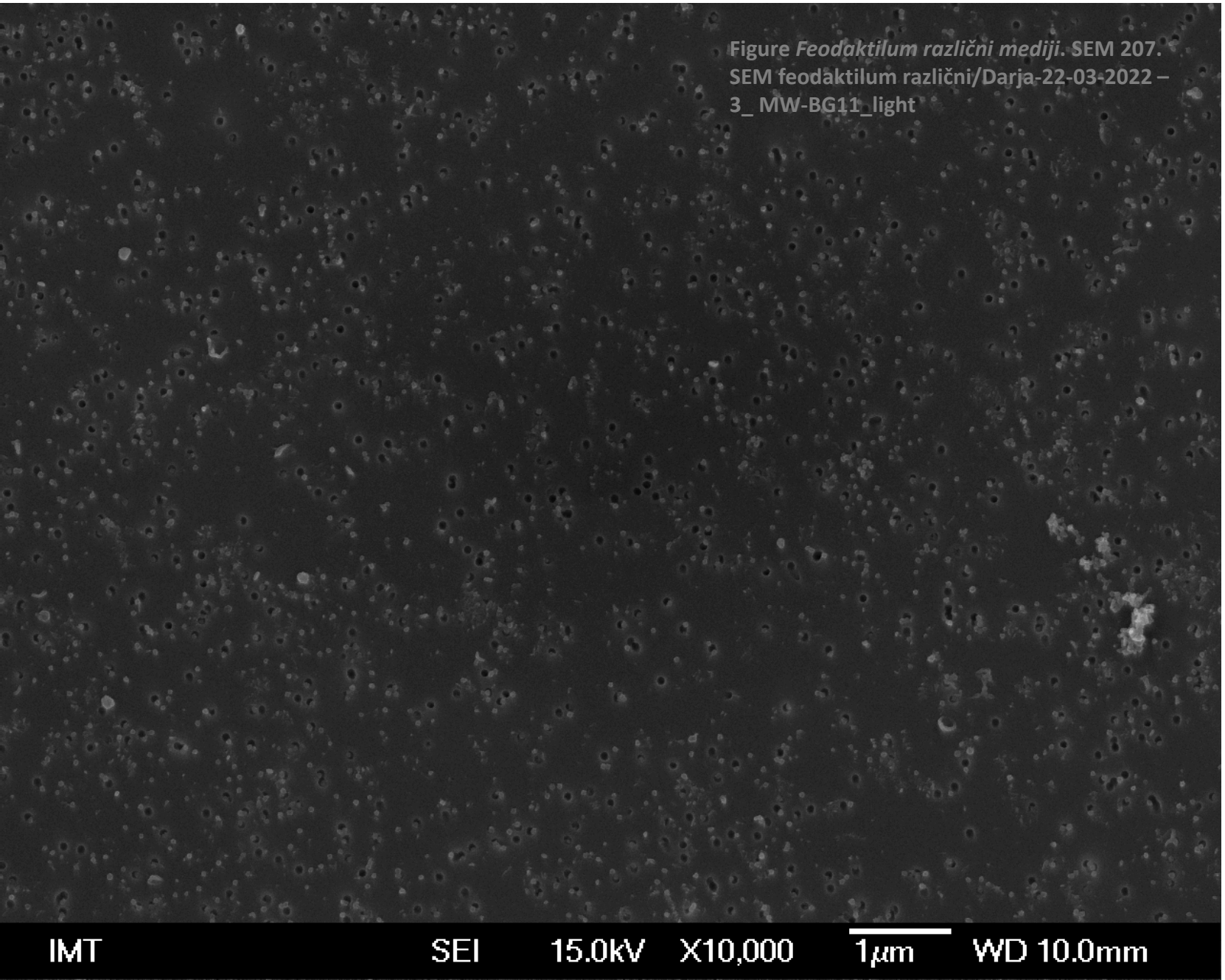

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 29.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

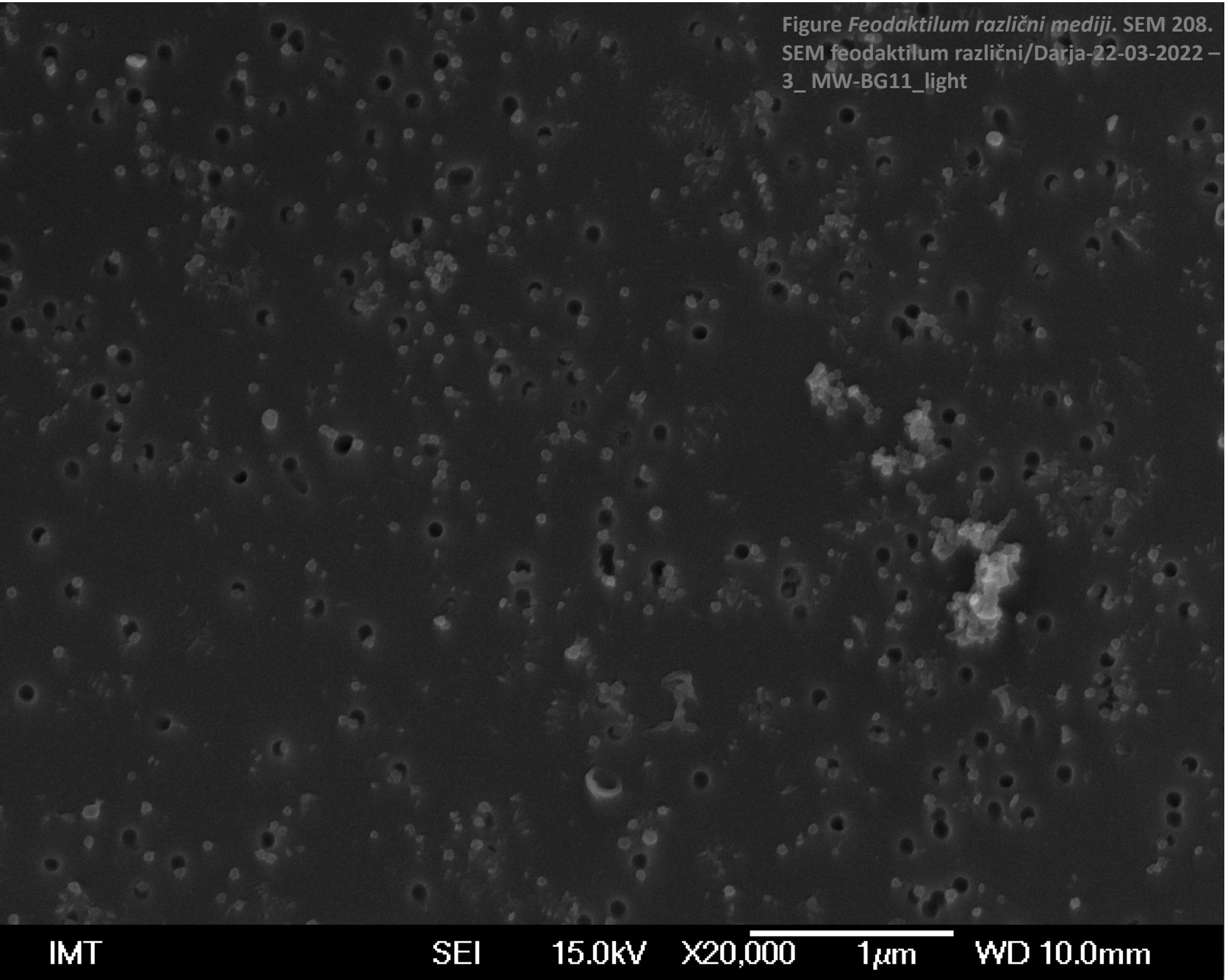

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 29.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

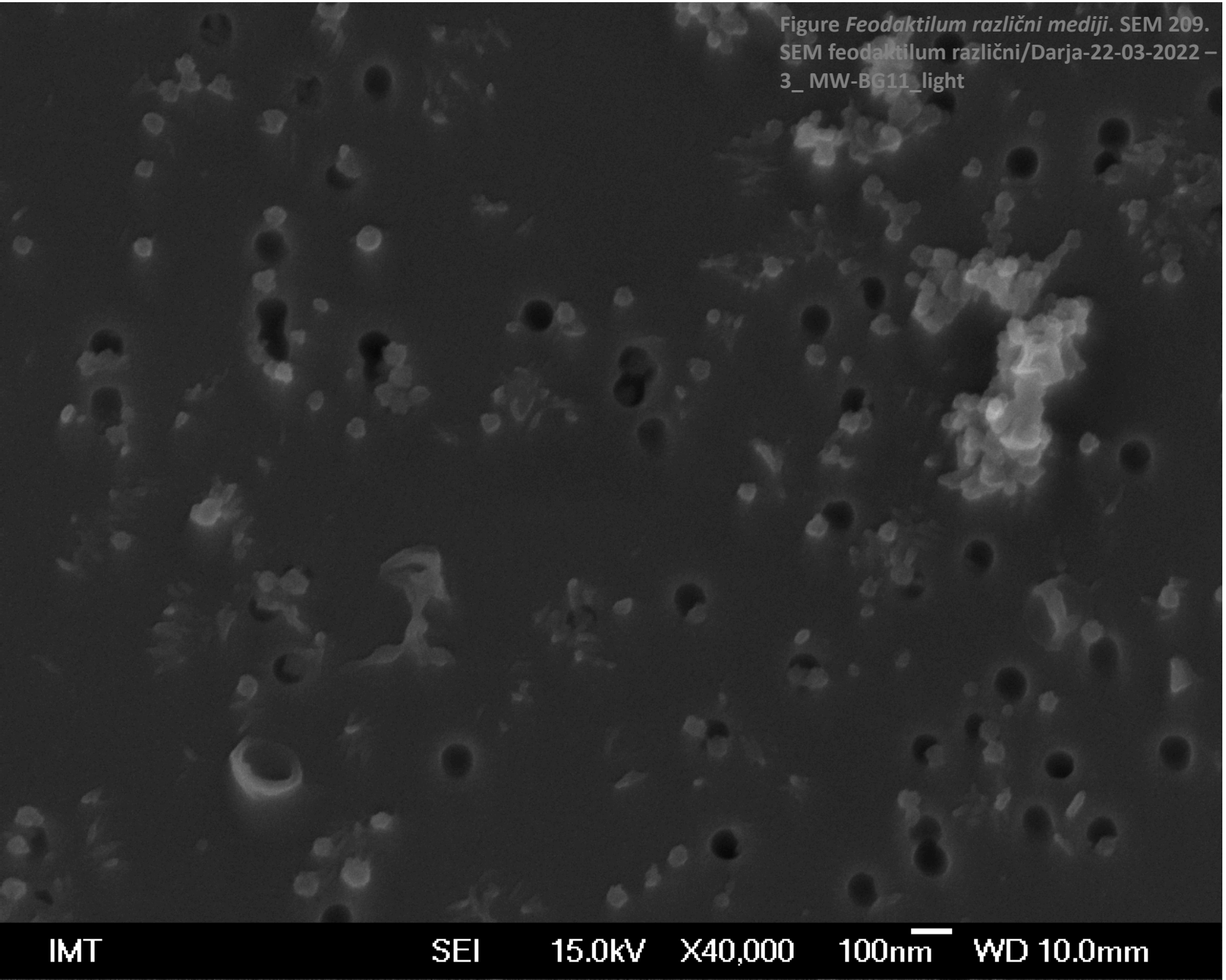

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 29.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 52.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 53.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

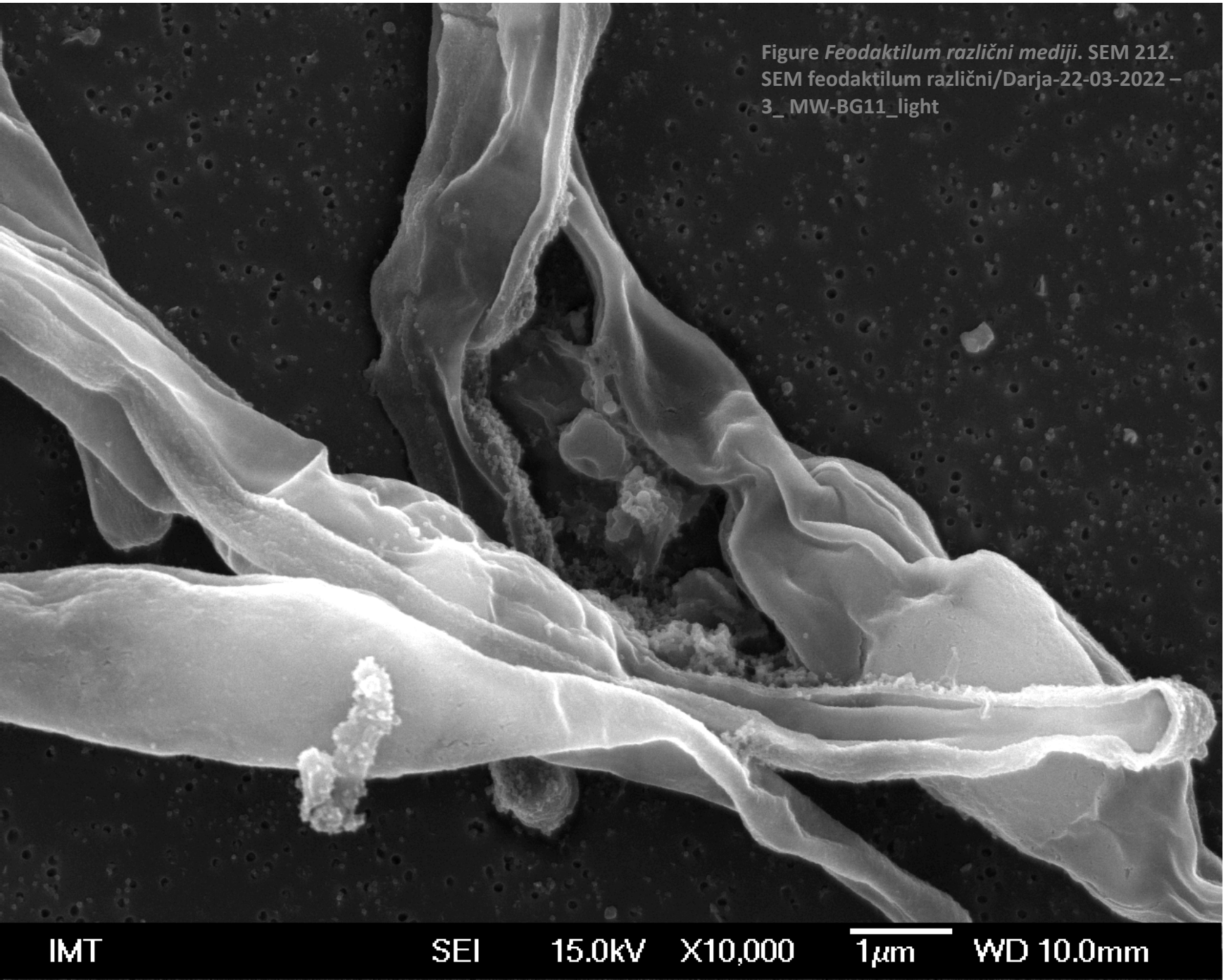

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 54.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 L SEM 55.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 14-hour light / 10-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

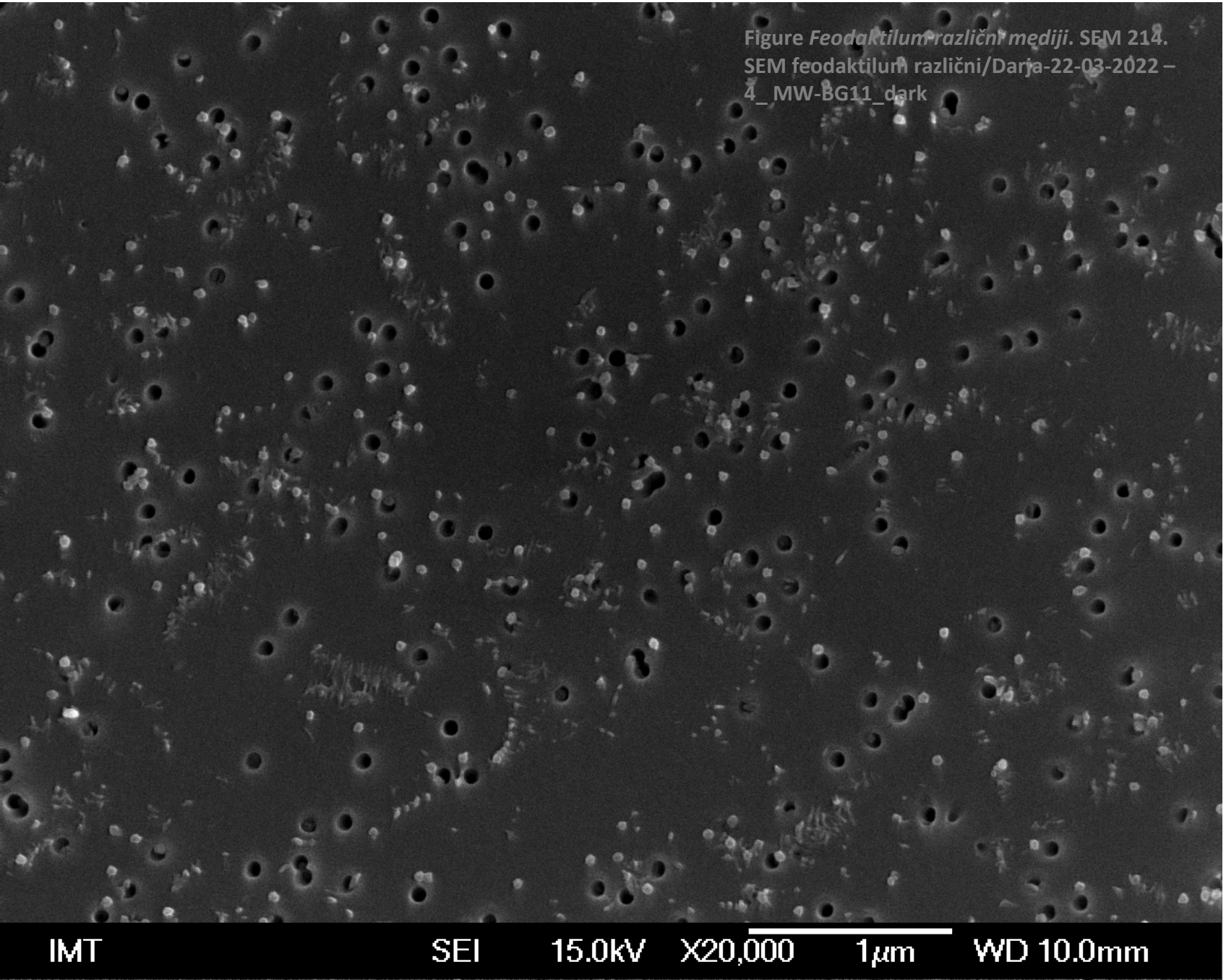

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 56.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

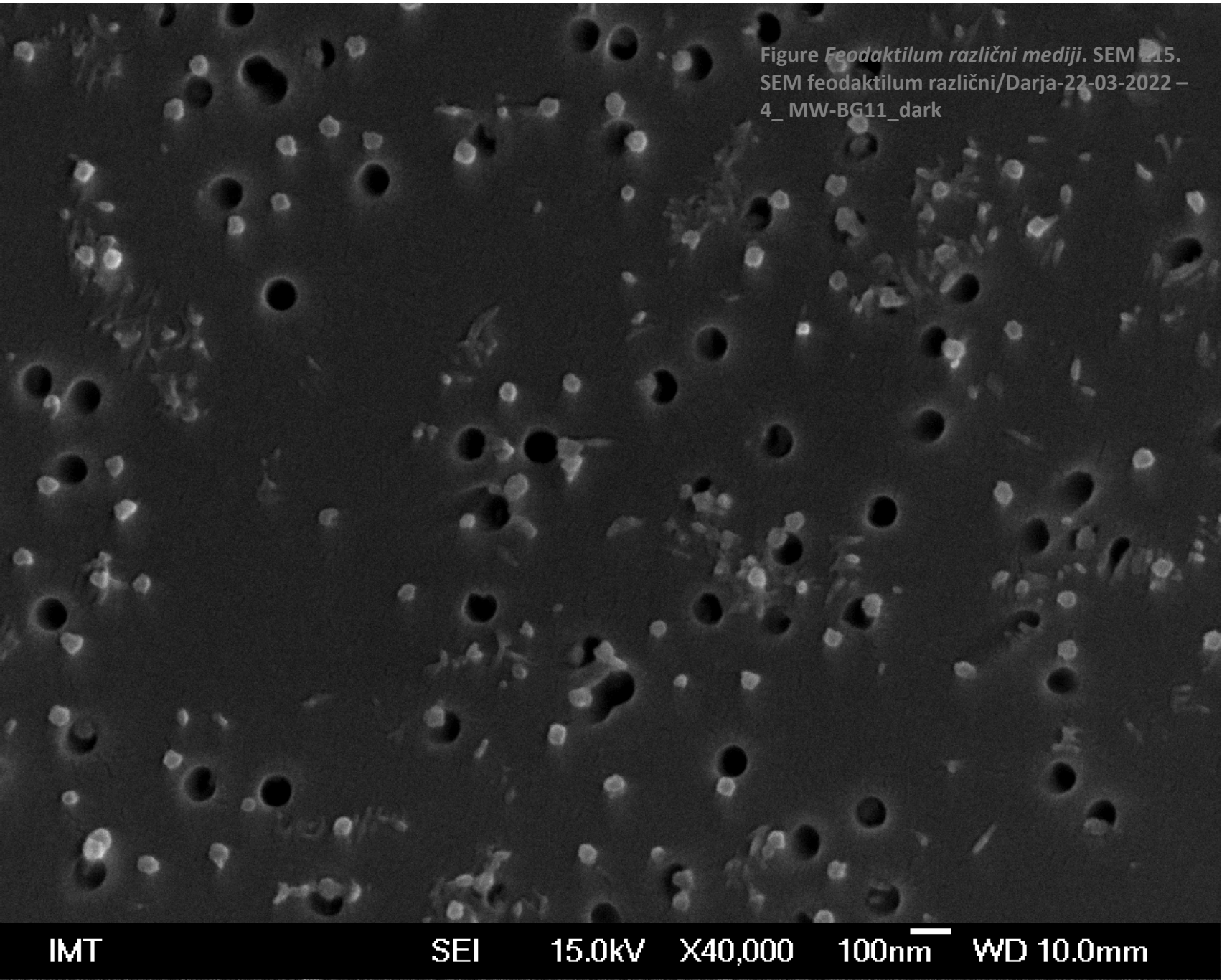

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 57.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

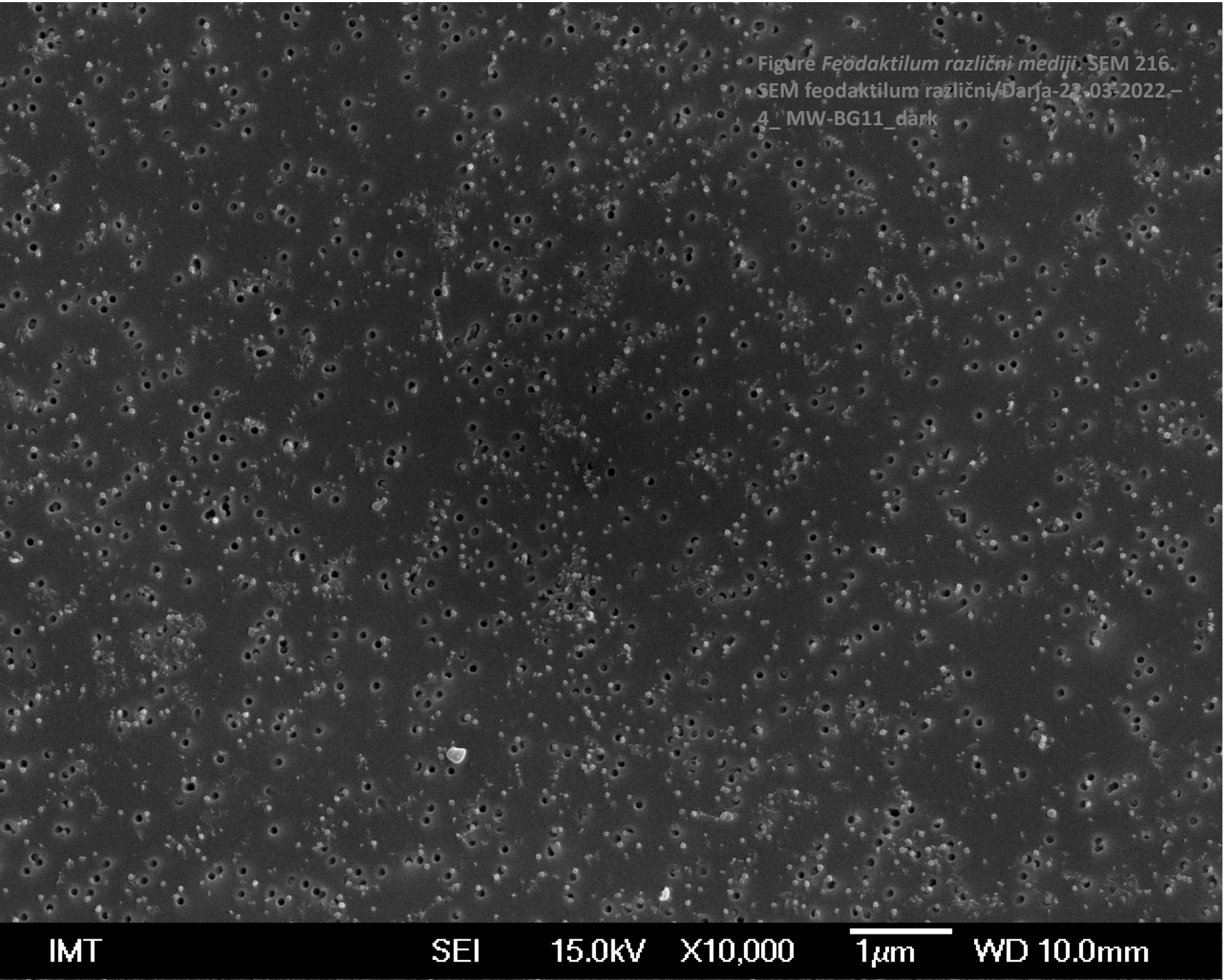

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 58.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

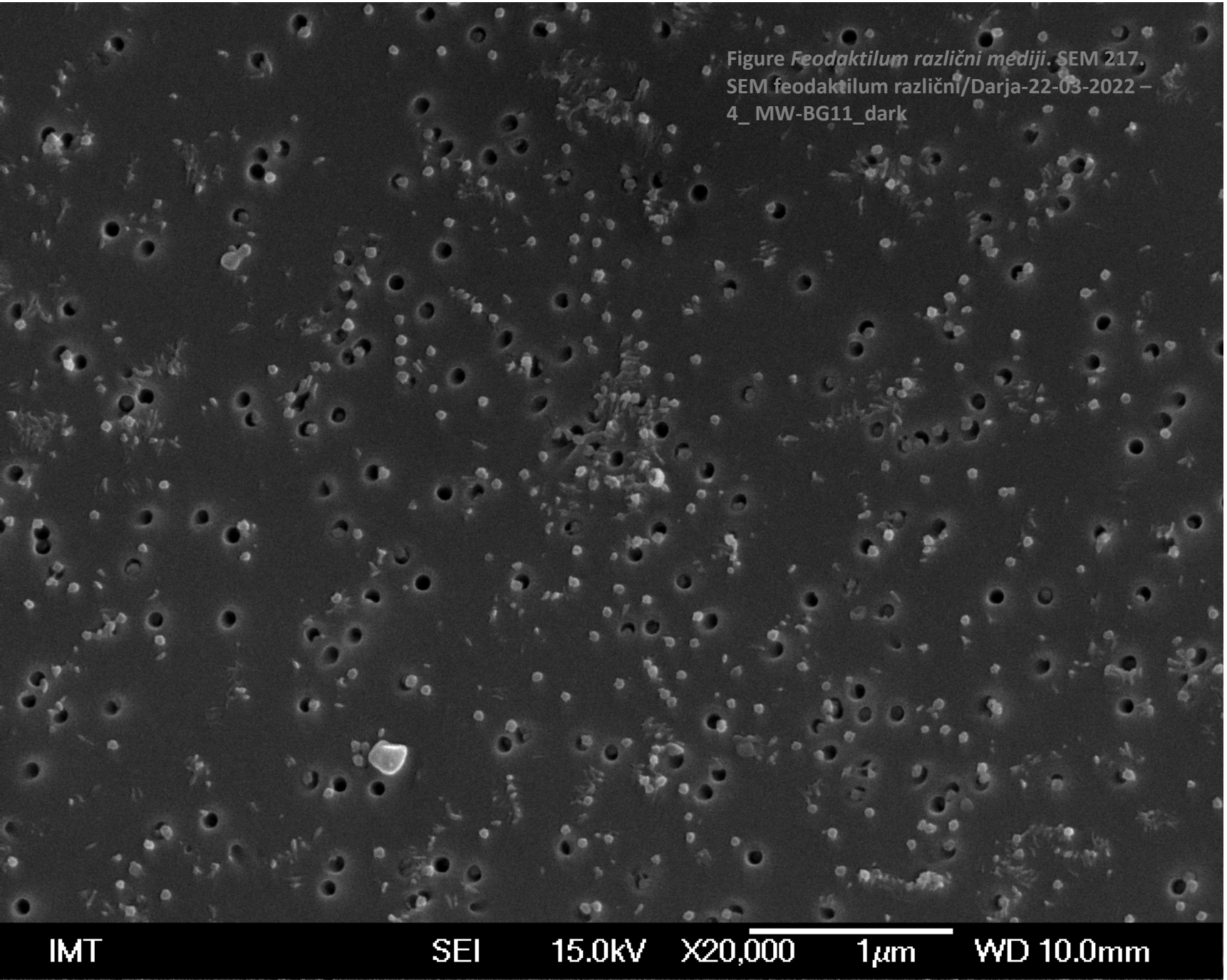

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 59.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

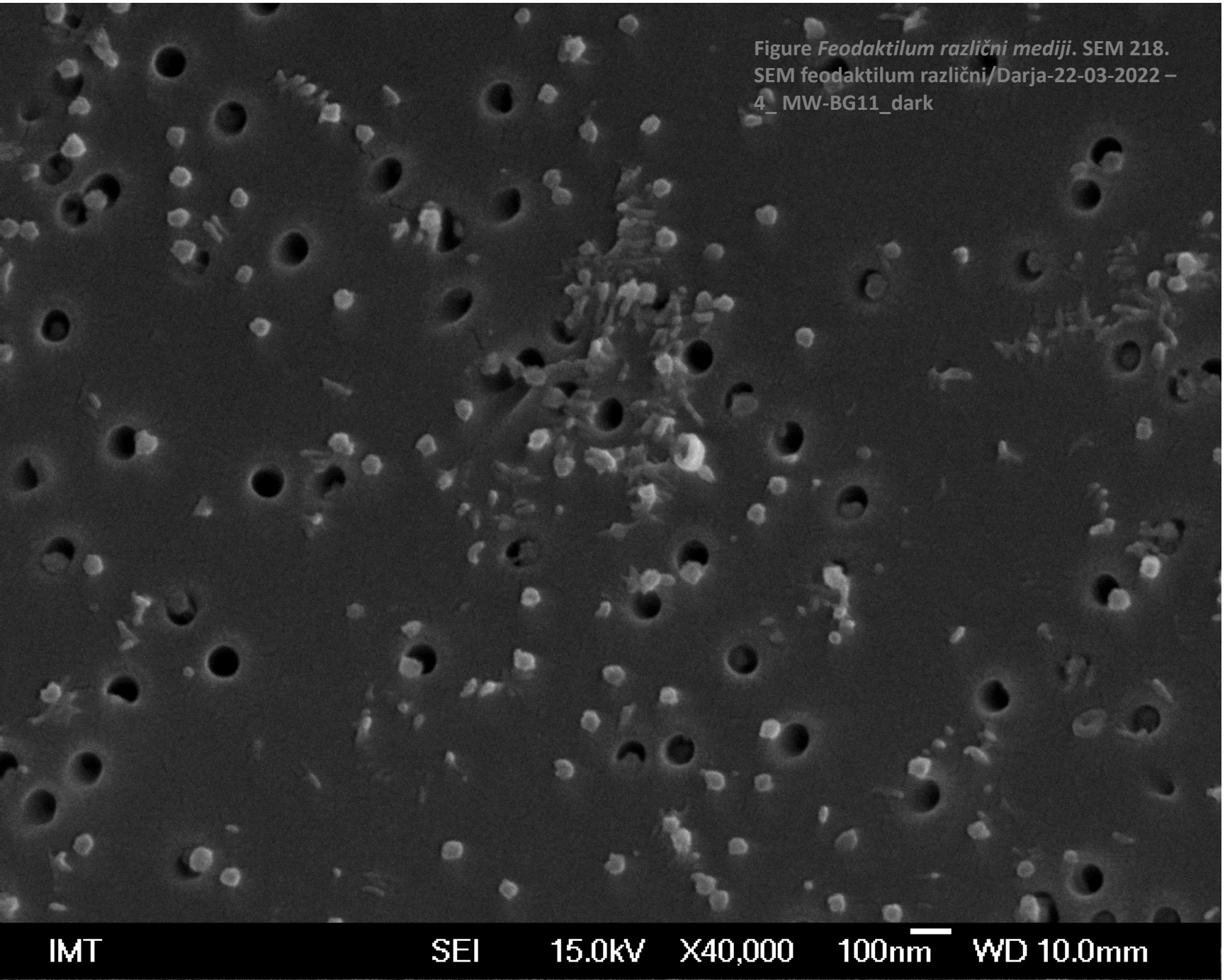

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 60.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

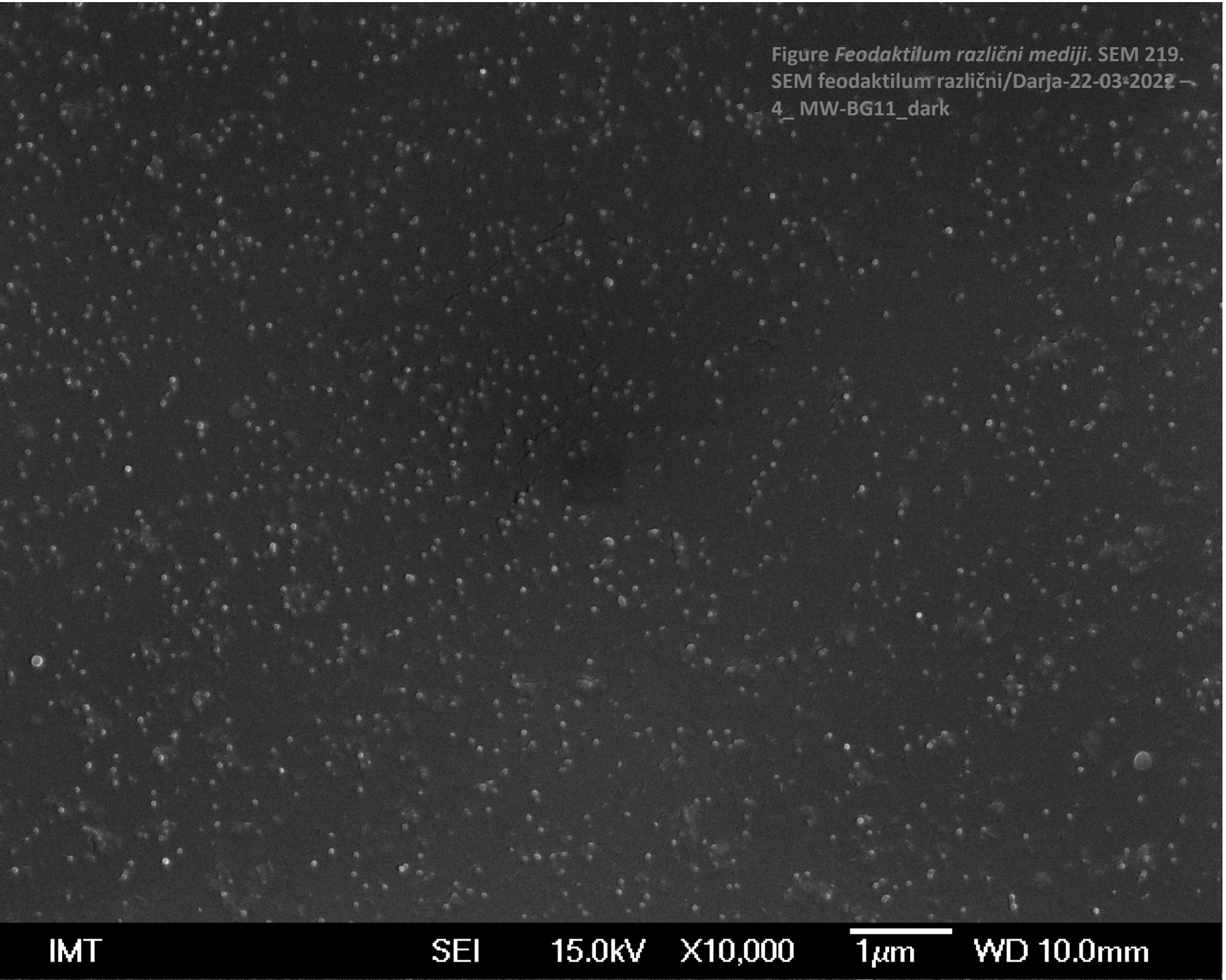

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 61.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

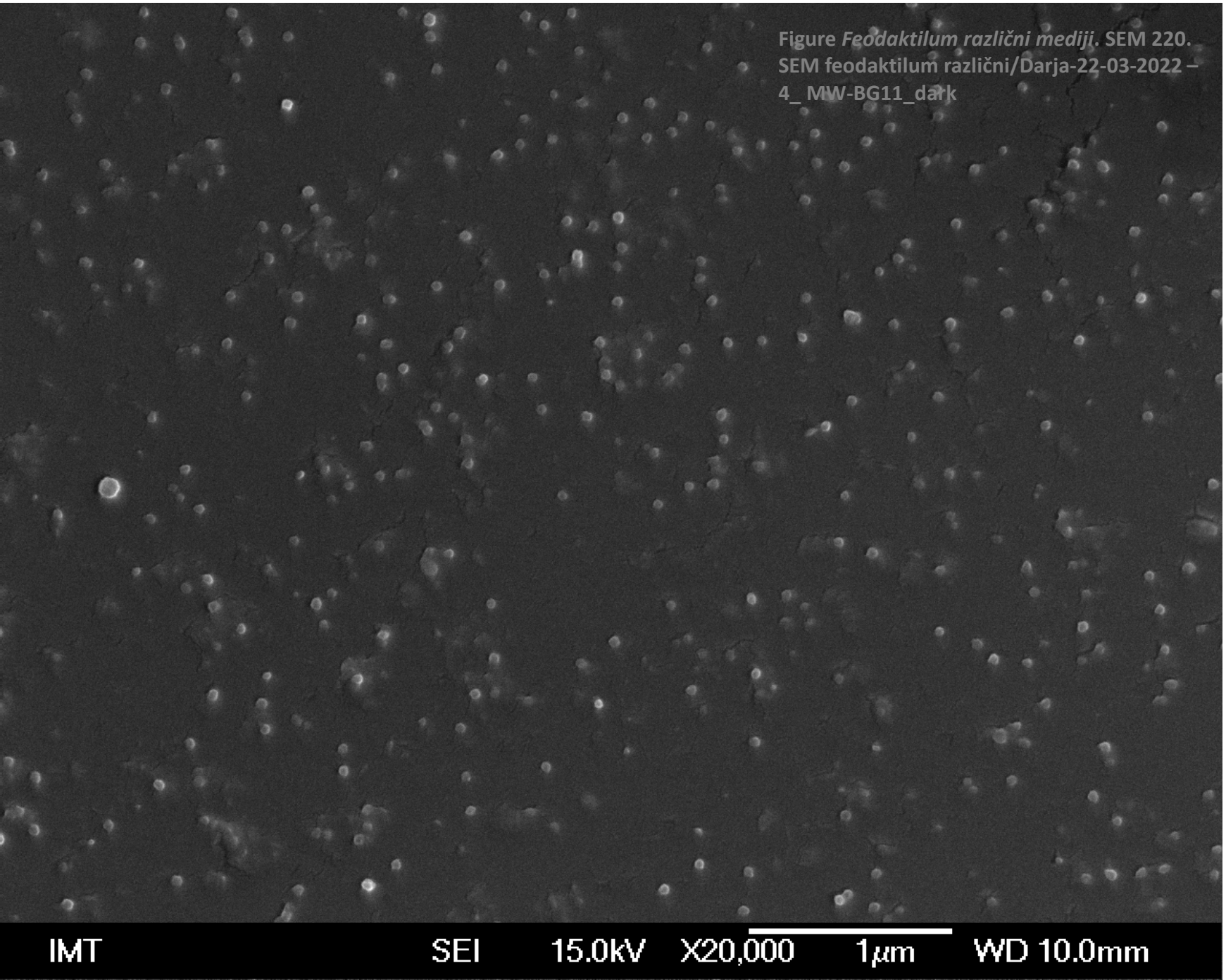

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 62.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

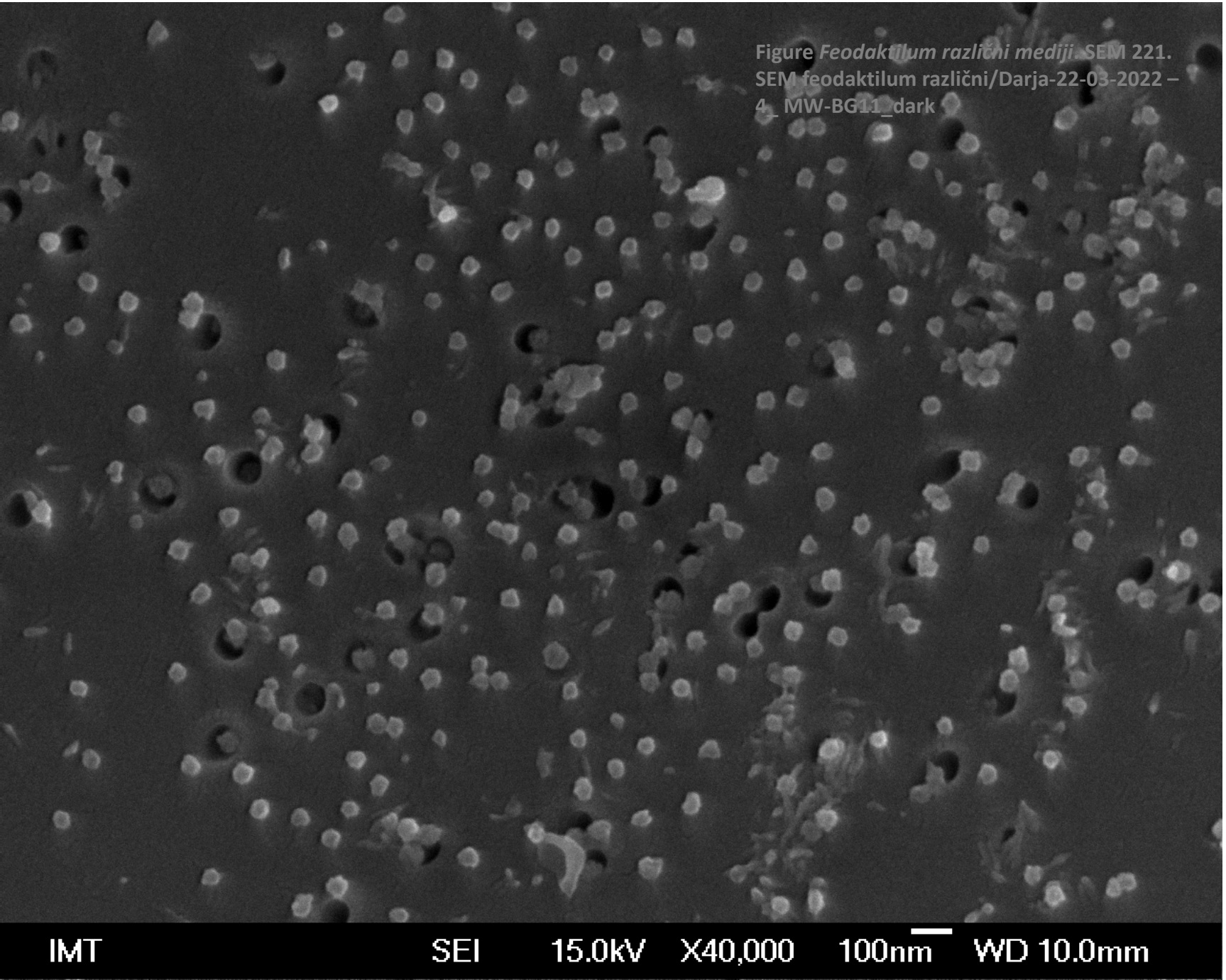

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 63.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

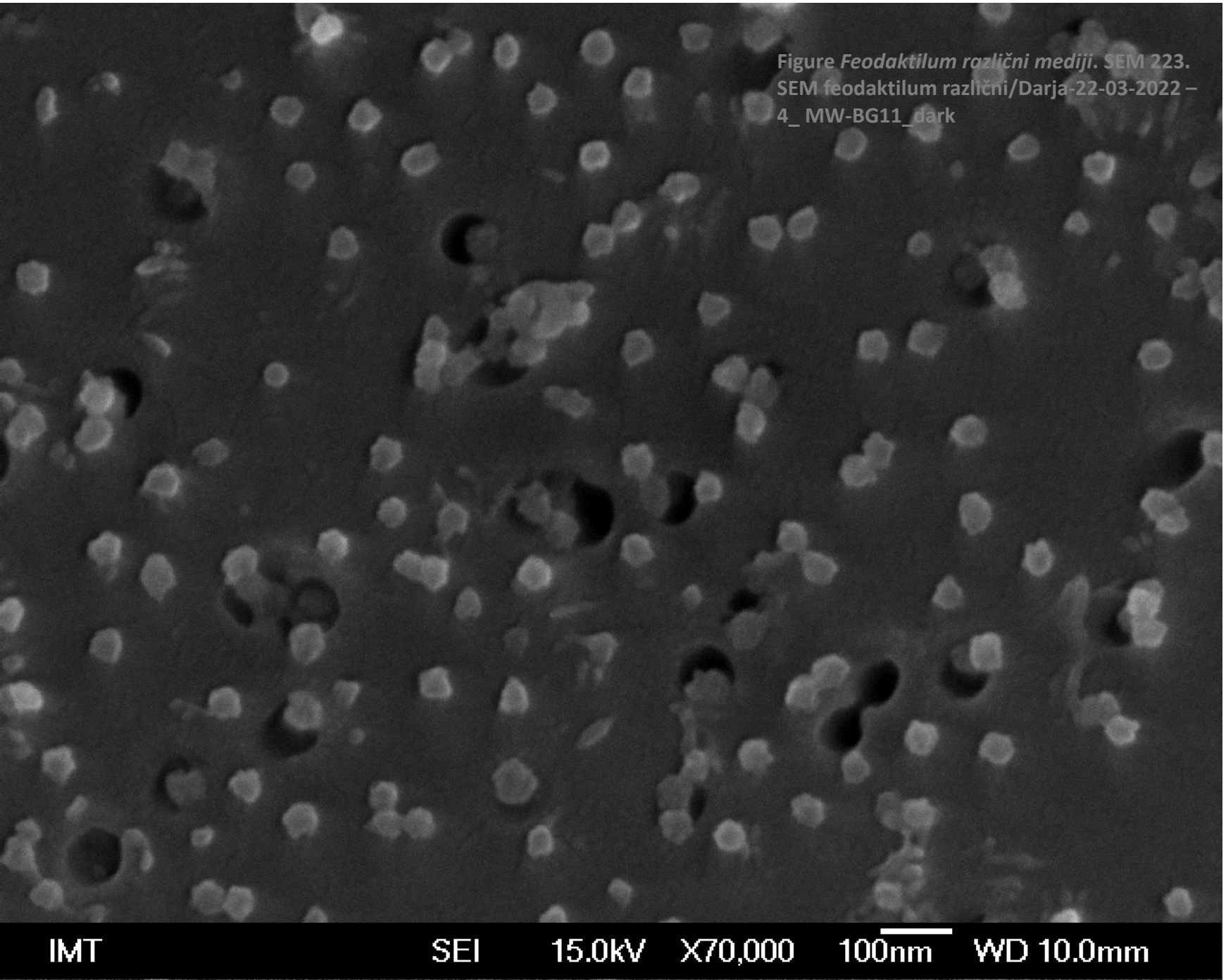

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 64.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

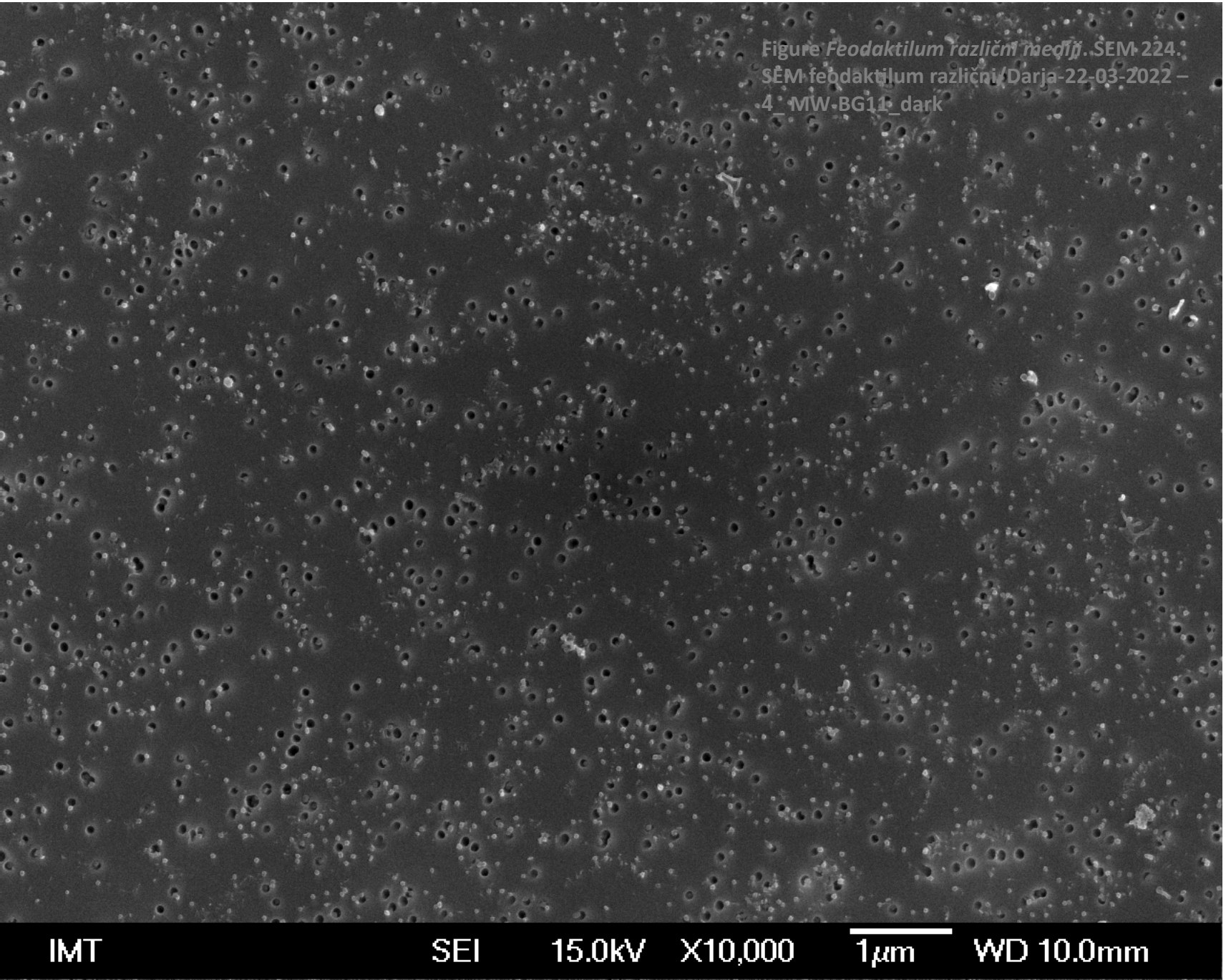

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 65.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

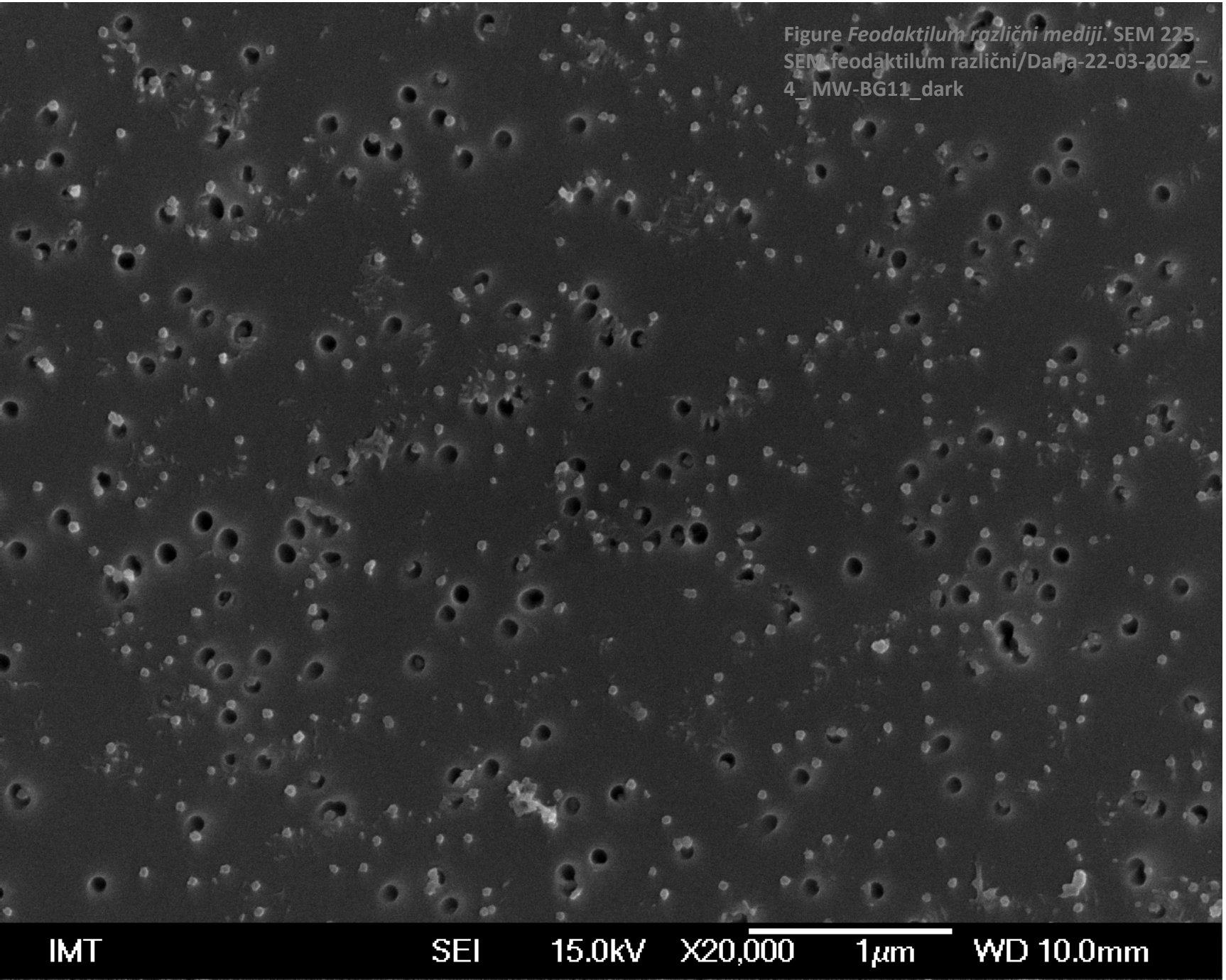

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 66.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 67.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

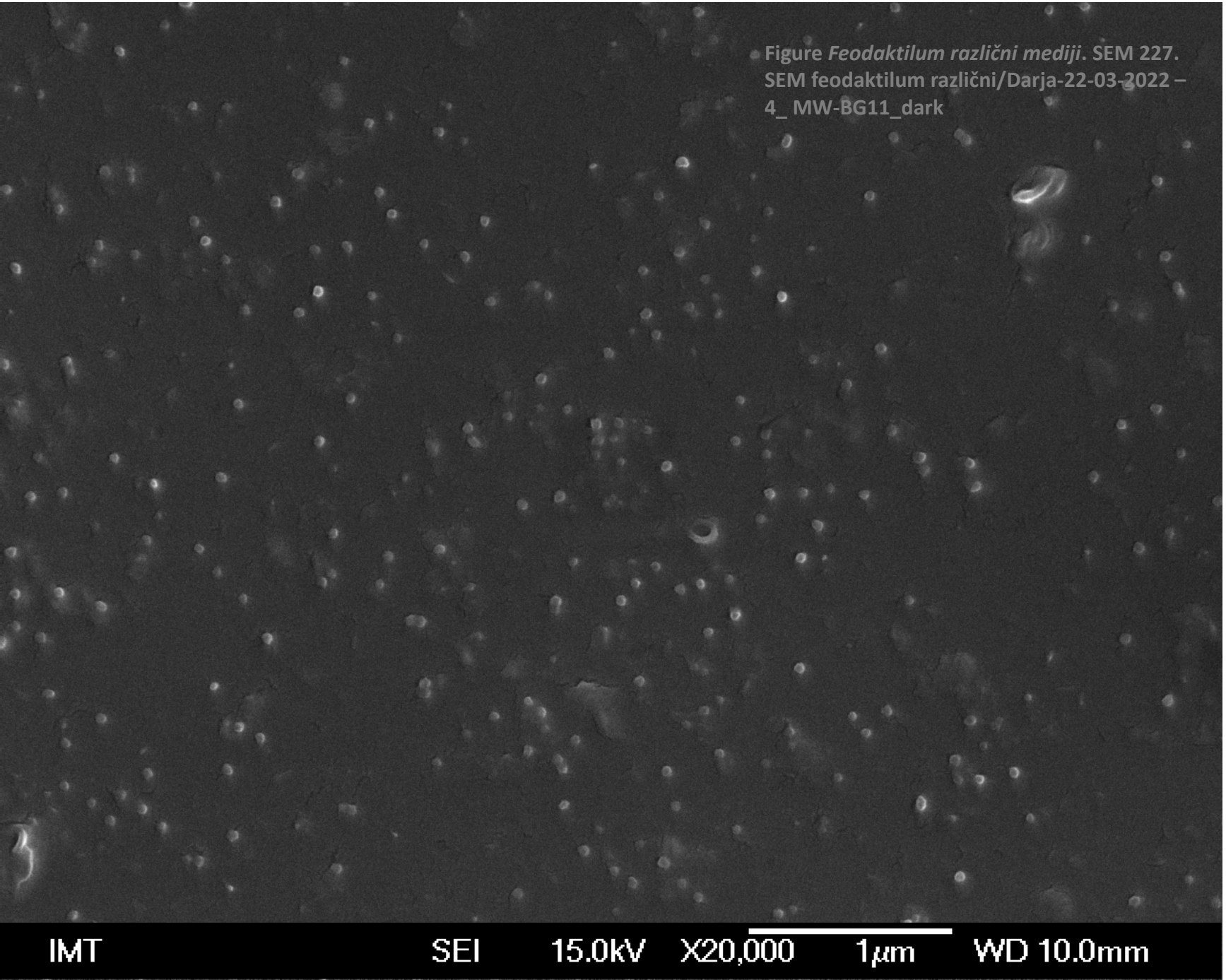

Figure *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* isolate BG11 D SEM 68.

Cultivation of the algae

Culture of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1052/1A from the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) of SAMS (Oban, Scotland) was grown in artificial seawater (Reef Crystals, Aquarium Systems, France). 22 g of salt was dissolved in one litre of distilled water, sterile filtered (0.2-micron cellulose filters, ref. 11107-47-CAN, Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, Germany), autoclaved, and supplemented with **Guillard's (F/2)** Marine Water Enrichment Solution (ref. G0154, Sigma Aldrich, USA)17. Culture was grown in a respirometer (Echo, Slovenia) in 0.5-L borosilicate bottles, at 20 °C and 20 % illumination (approximately 250 μmol/m2s) with a 12-hour light / 12-hour dark cycle, with aeration of 0.2 L/min.

Isolation of small cellular particles (SCPs)

SCPs were isolated by differential centrifugation. The cells from algal culture were removed by low-speed centrifugation (300 g, 10 min, 4°C, centrifuge Centric 260R with rotor RA 6/50 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.008.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany); and 2000 g, 10 min, 4°C (Centric 400R centrifuge with rotor RS4/100 (Domel, Slovenia)), using 15 mL conical centrifuge tubes (ref. S.078.02.001.050, Isolab Laborgeräte GmbH, Germany). Each step was repeated twice. Then, the cell-depleted medium was centrifuged twice at 10 000 g and 4°C for 30 min (Beckman L8-70M ultracentrifuge, rotor SW55Ti (Beckman Coulter, USA)), using thin-wall polypropylene centrifuge tubes (ref. 326819, Beckman Coulter, USA) to remove larger cell debris. Finally, NPs were pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 118 000 g and 4°C, for 70 min in the same type of ultracentrifuge and ultracentrifuge tubes.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

Samples were loaded onto 0.05-micron MCE filters (MF-Millipore™, ref. VMWP01300) and incubated in 2% OsO_4 for two hours. Then the osmium was removed, and the filter was taken out from the holder and further treated in a 24-well plate by changing the bath solution. After washing three times in distilled water, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, absolute), treated with hexamethyldisilazane (30%, 50% mixtures with absolute ethanol, followed by pure hexamethyldisilazane), and air-dried. Samples were sputtered with Au/Pd (PECS Gatan 682) and examined with a JSM-6500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).