

Acanthocyclops robustus (Sars 1863)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus *Acanthocyclops*, Kiefer 1927

Key characteristics:

The anterior part of *A. robustus* has an oval, somewhat robust form. Its furca is approximately 5 times as long as wide and the lateral seta is attached near the posterior end. The antennules are composed of 17 segments reaching to the first thorax segment. The spine formula of the last segment of the exopodite of the first to fourth pairs of legs is normally 3.4.4.4, but 2.3.3.3 may also occur. *A. robustus* may therefore be mixed up with *A. vernalis*. The colour is light yellowish brown.

Female: Length 1.05-1.50 mm

Male: Length smaller than the female

Distribution:

A. robustus is a littoral copepod found in 13 % of the water bodies (285 localities). It has a scattered distribution and is found in all parts of the country. In contrast to the other two *Acanthocyclops* species, most records are from lowland lakes (100-300 m a.s.l.). Though it is rare above 1000 m a.s.l. it is found at 1268 m a.s.l. It occurs in waters of varying sizes, being most common in small ponds which it may invade a short time after they are established. Highest frequency is found in electrolyte rich water and in water with pH above 4.5.

