

Acanthodiaptomus denticornis

(Wierzejski 1887)

Family Diaptomidae, G.O. Sars

Genus Acanthodiaptomus, Kiefer 1932

Key characteristics:

A. denticornis is a large calanoide copepod but less robust than *D. castor*. As with *E. gracilis*, the lateral expansion of the last thorax segment forms an outer angle, although it is somewhat less prominent. The endopodite of the last leg (p5) is narrow and as long as the 1st segment of the exopodite. This character easily distinguishes *A. denticornis* from i.e. *E. gracilis*. The female of *A. denticornis* has generally a bluish colour, while the male is reddish orange.

Female: Length 1.5-3.0 mm

Male: 1.4-2.5 mm

Distribution:

This species is found in 20% of the water bodies where zooplankton is sampled (456 localities). In the family Diaptomidae, only *E. gracilis* is more common in Norway. The species is especially common in small ponds where it occurs with high frequency (24%). *A. denticornis* is occasionally found on the west coast and in the furthestmost north, elsewhere it is widely distributed. It is common at all altitudes below 1300 m a.s.l. The highest record is from a small lake 1396 m a.s.l. pH (4.2-8.8) and the level of electrolytes (0.5-56 mS/m) does not seem to affect the distribution of *A. denticornis*.

