

# *Achantoleberis curvirostris* (O.F. Müller 1776)

Family Macrothricidae Norman et Brady

Genus *Achantoleberis* Lilljeborg 1853

## Key characteristics:

Because of its characteristic look, this species is easy to separate from all other species. Its head which constitutes about one third of the entire animal is dorsally curved and ends up in a pointed tip. Here the long and spectacular antennae bend backwards towards the carapace which is about as high as it is long. Parts of the postabdomen is seen outside carapace. The abdominal claw is relatively short and has a row of small denticles. There are two strong spinules close to the base. While young individuals has a bright grey greenish colour, adults are dark green, often with a tinge of yellow brownish colour.

Female: Length 0.9-2.0 mm

Male: Length 0.6-1.2 mm

## Distribution:

*A. curvirostris* is found in 350 water bodies, or 16% of the localities. Since it occurs with highest frequency in acid water, it is used as an indicator of acid water. I.e. when  $\text{pH} < 5.0$  it occurs in more than half of the localities. Most of these are situated between 300 and 1000 m. a.s.l. It is most common in ponds and small lakes, often with a high content of humus.

