

Alona intermedia Sars 1862

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Alona* Baird, 1850

Key characteristics:

A. intermedia is one of the smallest *Alona*-species, having a thin and transparent carapace. The head shield has only two head pores. Its postabdomen widens strongly towards the end and is evenly rounded. The spines at the basis of the abdominal claws are especially long and characteristic, and *A. intermedia* may be easily distinguished from the other *Alona*-species. The carapace has a distinct striation and is punctuated. Its colour is yellowish grey or greenish grey often with a tinge of brown.

Female: Length 0.3-0.5 mm

Male: Length 0.2-0.3 mm

Distribution:

A. intermedia is recorded from 154 locations (ca 6 %) and is distributed all over the country. It occurs from sea level and up to the alpine zone (1370 m a.s.l.) with highest frequency below 500 m a.s.l. The species is evenly found in localities of all sizes but is rare in acid water and is classified as acid sensitive. It is only found once at pH < 5.0. Though *A. intermedia* is found in electrolyte-poor water (0.7 mS/m), it most commonly occurs in electrolyte-rich waters.

