

# *Alona karelica* Stenroos 1897

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Alona*, Baird 1843

## Key characteristics:

This species can be confused with *A. costata* but the carapace is not striated. However, *A. karelica* is also characterized by the blunt tip of the rostrum, and it has no lateral head pores. Denticles are increasing in size proximately with a few long and thin spinules at the edge. The basal spine of the abdominal claw is very small. It either has a bright grey colour, or may be hyaline.

Female: Length 0.3-0.5 mm

Male: Length 0.3-0.5 mm

## Distribution:

The first record of *A. karelica* (1978) is from the central parts of south-Norway. Today it is found in 27 localities from all parts of the country situated between 16 and 976 m a.s.l. So far there are no records from small ditches or from the largest lakes. Otherwise this littoral chydorid is found in water bodies of all sizes and with pH ranging from 5.7 to 8.2. The majority of records are from electrolyte rich lakes with a Ca-content higher than the mean in Norwegian lakes.

