

A. quadrangularis (O.F. Müller 1785)

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus Alona, Baird 1843

Key characteristics:

A. quadrangularis is very close to *A. affinis*, however there are differences both in shape and morphology of the carapace. While the dorsal contour in the latter species is curved with the highest point across the middle, the carapace in *A. quadrangularis* is highest close to the posterior end. *A. quadrangularis* has three connected median headpores, while *A. affinis* has only two. Compared to *A. affinis*, *A. quadrangularis* also has no spinules on the basal spine of the postabdominal claw. Its colour varies from bright yellowish brown to dark reddish brown.

Female: Length 0.5-1.3 mm

Male: Length 0.5-0.9 mm

Distribution:

A. quadrangularis is a littoral chydorid which occurs in ca 3% of the water bodies (68 localities), and is found in all parts of Norway. It occurs randomly from sea level and up to 1370 m a.s.l. in localities of all sizes and on a wide variety of substrates. The species is rare in acid waters and except for one record at pH < 5 it has only been found in water bodies having pH between 5.6 and 7.9. The highest frequency occurs between pH 6.0 and 7.9. *A. quadrangularis* is most commonly found in electrolyte rich water (> 2.0 mS/m).

