

Alona rectangularis Sars 1862

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus Alona, Baird 1843

Key characteristics:

The name of *A. rectangularis* reflects the shape of its body which is squarer than any of the other *Alona*-species. Its carapace is broadly striated. The postabdomen is short and unlike *A. guttata* it is rounded and does not project in a rather strongly protruding, sharp corner. The spine at the base of the abdominal claw is larger than in *A. guttata*. It has a greenish-grey or flaxen colour often with a tinge of brown.

Female: Length 0.2-0.5 mm

Male: Length 0.2-0.4 mm

Distribution:

A. rectangularis is a littoral species found in 121 (ca 6%) of the water bodies. It is spread all over the country, and is recorded both from continental areas and localities near the coast. It is found in water bodies of all sizes from sea level and up to the alpine zone (1130 m a.s.l.) with the highest frequency between 100 and 300 m a.s.l. (10.3%). It is characterized as an acid sensitive species. Though it has been found at pH 4.8 it occurs with highest frequency (10%) in waters with pH above 7.0. *A. rectangularis* is associated with lakes that are rich in calcium (mean 15 mg/l).

