

# *Alona rustica* Scott 1895

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Alona*, Baird 1843

## Key characteristics:

*A. rustica* was earlier mixed up with *A. costata*, which is somewhat larger. The carapace of *A. rustica* has no distinct longitudinal stripes, while the postabdomen has a curved posterior corner covered with relatively long and coarse teeth at the dorsal edge. Its lateral head pores are twice as long as in *A. costata* and it is also darker having a brownish yellow colour.

Female: Length 0.3-0.6 mm

Male: Length 0.3-0.4 mm

## Distribution:

*A. rustica* is a littoral species which is found in nearly 14 % of the localities and is distributed all over the country with the highest number of records from the southern parts. It occurs from sea level and up to 1267 m a.s.l. and though it is found in water bodies of all sizes, it is most common in lakes > 1 da. It is often associated with a sphagnum type substrate and is known as an indicator of acid lakes. At pH 4.5- 4.9 it is found in 42% of the localities. It is common in electrolyte poor water (<5.0 mS/m).

