

# *Alonella excisa* (Fischer, 1854)

Family chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus Alonella, Sars 1862

## Key characteristics:

*A. excisa* have an oval look. The structure of the shell is characteristic and consists of polygons with small longitudinal lines inside. This criterion distinguishes this species from its close relative *A. exigua*. Furthermore the postabdomen of *A. excisa* is longer and more slender compared with *A. exigua*. The rostrum is relatively short and the ventral posterior corner has 2-4 small teeth. The colour is greyish-brown.

Female: Length 0.3-0.5 mm

Male: Length 0.2-0.3 mm

## Distribution:

*A. excisa* is a littoral species which occurs in more than one third (36%) of the localities, and is distributed all over the country. It is found from sea level and up to 1387 m a.s.l. with its highest frequency between 500 and 700 m a.s.l. It is common in water bodies of all sizes, and is associated with different sorts of substrates and vegetation. The species have a wide tolerance towards pH (3.6 - 8.2) but occurs with its highest frequency at pH < 5.0. *A. excisa* has been found under slight brackish conditions (153.6 mS/m), as well as in dilute mountain lakes (0.4 mS/m).

