

Alonella nana (Baird 1843)

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Alonella*, Sars 1862

Key characteristics:

A. nana is the smallest of the cladoceran species. It differs from *A. exigua* and *A. excisa* having a shape that is almost semicircular. Its carapace is only slightly transparent, largely because of its especially distinct and characteristic striping. The colour is grey with elements of green and brown.

Female: Length 0.2-0.3 mm

Male: Length 0.2-0.3 mm

Distribution:

A. nana is a very common littoral chydorid which occurs in 47% of the investigated waters from all parts of the country. It is found close to the sea level though not in brackish water. Its frequency decreases with increasing altitude, though it is found as high as 1390 m a.s.l. *A. nana* is common in water bodies of all sizes, and lives in a great variety of habitats. The species is also found during the winter, with males mainly occurring in late autumn. pH in lakes containing *A. nana* varies between 3.9 and 8.6 while conductivity varies between 0.4 mS/m and 142 mS/m.

