

Alonopsis elongata (Sars 1862)

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing
Genus *Alonopsis*, Sars 1862

Key characteristics:

A. elongata shows similarities to *A. harpae*, however its carapace has a more rectangular form with the maximum height in the posterior part. It has a short rostrum with both eyes situated near the front of the head shield. There are 15-17 teeth on the postabdomen decreasing in size proximally. The arrangement of bristles on the abdominal claw also distinguishes this species from *A. harpae*. It may have many layers of old shields, which gives it a coffee brown look.

Female: Length 1.0

Male: Length 0.6-0.7

Distribution:

A. elongata is one of the most common littoral species and occurs in 73 % of the water bodies in all parts Norway. Among cladocerans only *B. longispina* is more common. *A. elongata* is found from sea level to 1500 m a.s.l. It occurs with a slightly higher frequency in localities above 500 m a.s.l. than below this altitude. It is more common in lakes (80%) than in ditches and small ponds (36%). It occurs in waters of different pH, varying from 3.9 to 8.2, with its highest frequency at pH between 4.5 and 6.0. *A. elongata* is slightly more common in electrolyte poor water than in electrolyte rich water.

