

Bythotrephes longimanus Leydig

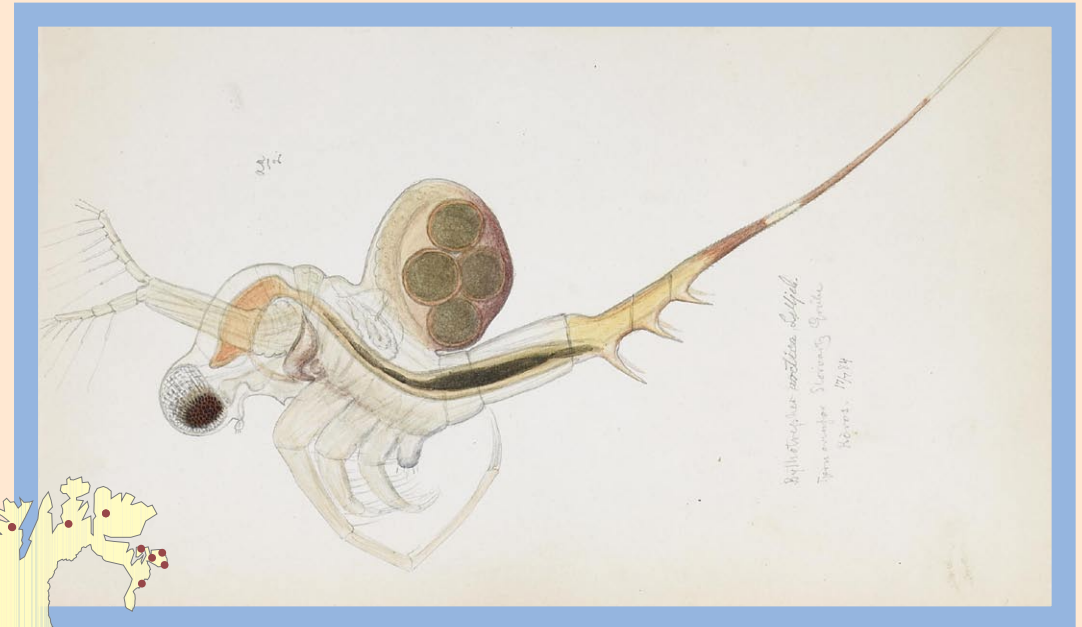
1860

Family Cercopagidae Mordukhai-Boltovskoi

Genus *Bythotrephes*, Leydig 1860

Key characteristics:

Like *Polyphemus pediculus*, this predatory species is very different from other cladocerans. Its body is compact and as in *P. pediculus*, its eye takes up most of the head and a brood chamber with eggs/embryos appears on the dorsal side. However *B. longimanus* is separated from the former species by the development of an abdomen which is formed as a spectacular, extremely long process (more than 10 mm). G.O. Sars was the first zoologist that concluded that this was a real abdominal process and not only abdominal bristles. Though *B. longimanus* is almost hyaline it may have a tinge of grey or blue.



Female: Length 1.2-5.0 mm (without abdominal process)

Male: Length 1.2-4.0 mm

Distribution:

B. longimanus is a true limnetic predatory species, which occasionally may occur in the littoral. There are records from approximately 400 waterbodies, or about 20% of the lakes where zooplankton has been sampled. The majority of records is from lakes, and when surface area > 100 da it is found with a frequency of about 30%. There are only a few records from the alpine zone. The highest frequency of *B. longimanus* is found in medium electrolyte rich lakes (1.5-7.0 mS/m) and when pH is between 5.0 and 7.0.

