

Ceriodaphnia megops (Sars)

Family Daphniidae Sars

Genus *Ceriodaphnia* Dana 1853

Key characteristics:

The head of *C. megops* is relatively large and the compound eye is larger than in any other *Ceriodaphnia* species. *C. megops* is also easily distinguished from other species by the abdomen which has eight to nine long and thin spines which increase in size towards the tip where the postabdomen forms an angel towards the abdominal claw. The species is often transparent having a greyish or reddish tinge.

Female: Length 0.7-1.6 mm

Male: Length 0.6-0.8 mm

Distribution:

C. megops is a plankton/littoral species which is recorded from 55 localities, or 2.5% of the water bodies. All records are from the south-eastern part of the country. It is found in water bodies of varying size, all situated below 300 m. a.s.l. pH in lakes containing *C. megops* is varying from 5,5 to 7,7 while it is most common in relatively electrolyte rich water (>4 mS/m).

