

# *Ceriodaphnia pulchella* Sars 1862

Family Daphniidae Sars

Genus *Ceriodaphnia* Dana 1853

## Key characteristics:

This species is close to *C. reticulata*, but differs from the latter by the shape of the head, which has a rostrum-like protrusion below the base of the first pair of antennae. *C. pulchella* has also been mixed up with *C. quadrangula*. However, the shape of the postabdomen, which is smaller in *C. pulchella* than in *C. quadrangula*, can be used for identification of these species. The postabdomen in *C. pulchella*, which is always hidden by the carapace, has a group of 3-5 long and thin spines in addition to the abdominal denticles. The species is very transparent and almost colourless with a weak tint of yellow or green.

Female: Length 0.4-0.9 mm

Male: Length 0.4-0.7 mm

## Distribution:

*C. pulchella* is found in 146 localities (5%), and among *Ceriodaphnia* species, *C. quadrangula* is the only species that is more common. *C. pulchella* is mainly found in the south-eastern part of Norway. Though it is most common between 100 and 300 m a.s.l., it is also found in the alpine zone (1250 m a.s.l.). *C. pulchella* occurs with high frequency in ponds (<0.01 da) as well as in large lakes (>1000 da). Except for a few, all records are from lakes with pH>6.0. It occasionally occurs in electrolyte poor water. Highest frequency is found in lakes which have conductivity above 5.0 mS/m.

