

Cryptocyclops bicolor (Sars 1927)

Family cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus *Cryptocyclops*, Sars 1863

Key characteristics:

C. bicolor is the only species of this genus in Norway. It is smaller than any other cyclopoids. It may resemble *Microcyclops varicans* having a relatively short and stout body form. In both species the lateral seta is attached close to the end of a relatively short furca. However the last thorax segment is less protruded and the last pair of legs (p5) is more reduced in *C. bicolor* than in *M. varicans*. The antennae of *C. bicolor* and *M. varicans* have respectively 11 and 12 segments. Its colour is rather peculiar, while the anterior division is nearly colourless, the tail and anterior antennae exhibit a beautiful golden yellow or orange hue.

Female: Length 0.6-0.8 mm

Male: Length 0.5 mm

Distribution:

G.O. Sars found this species in small grassy ponds in Oslo. Since the late 1980th the species has been found 44 times, both in ponds and in the littoral of lakes. Except two, all records are from south/southeastern parts of Norway. The great majority of records are from neutral, electrolyte rich lowland localities. The species is truly overlooked because of its small size.

