

Cyclops scutifer G.O. Sars 1863

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus Cyclops, O.F. Müller 1785

Key characteristics:

Based on habitual criteria *C. scutifer* can easily be distinguished from other *Cyclops*-species by the appearance of the highly pointed appearance of the two last thorax-segments. Another criterion used to distinguish *C. scutifer* from its relatives is the appearance of the seta attached to the 1st basal segment of the 4th pair of legs. This is much coarser in *C. scutifer* and *C. insignis* than in other *Cyclops*-species. The body of *C. scutifer* is highly pellucid and generally almost colourless, but in some cases exhibits a beautiful emerald green or red hue.

Female: Length 0.9-1.6 mm

Male: Length 0.8-1.0 mm

Distribution:

C. scutifer is the most common planktonic copepod in Norwegian lakes and is found in nearly 60% of the water bodies where zooplankton is sampled (1936 loc.). It occurs with a high frequency at all elevations, also above 1000 m a.s.l., and is the only species recorded from a lake situated 1837 m a.s.l. In lakes <1 da the chance to find *C. scutifer* is less than in lakes above this size. *C. scutifer* is weakly acid sensitive, and occurs with its highest frequency when pH is between 5.5 and 7.5. The frequencies of lakes with *C. scutifer* decrease when the content of electrolytes is high (>10 mS/m).

