

Cyclops strenuus (Fischer 1851)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus Cyclops, O.F. Müller 1785

Key characteristics:

With respect to the body shape, *C. strenuus* is representative for the genus *Cyclops* sp. It may resemble *C. scutifer*, but can be distinguished from this species by the appearance of the 4. and 5. thorax segment, which is less pointed in *C. strenuus*. Their furca is of the same length and is shorter than i.e. the tails of *C. abyssorum* and *C. insignis*. A criterion to separate *C. strenuus* from *C. scutifer* is also to use the seta attached to the 1st basal joint in the 4th pair of legs which is much thinner in *C. strenuus* than in *C. scutifer*. *C. strenuus* generally has a light yellow or orange colour.

Female: Length 1.2-2.3 mm

Male: Length 1.1-1.8 mm

Distribution:

C. strenuus occurs in the plankton as well as in the littoral, and is found in 61 water bodies which all are situated below 500 m a.s.l. Except for a few localities, the majority of records are from small ponds. It is associated with neutral (pH 6.0-8.0), electrolyte rich localities and may occur in ponds with extremely high loads of nutrients. The species is obviously more abundant than our records tell us, since it is abundant in early spring or late autumn, which is before or after the great majority of water bodies are sampled.

