

Daphnia cristata Sars 1861

Family Daphniidae

Genus *Daphnia* O.F. Müller 1785

Key characteristics:

Though it may vary in size, *D. cristata* is one of the smallest daphniids. It is characterised by the crista which continues around the whole perimeter of the head, starting from the rostrum. The head is large and makes up about 1/3 of the whole animal which has the greatest across the middle of the carapace. The species is easily separated from other daphniids the bristle on the first joint of the three-segmented-branch of the second pair of antennae lacks. It is rather colourless and transparent.

Female: Length 0.9-1.8 mm

Male: Length 0.6-1.0 mm

Distribution:

D. cristata is found in 224 water bodies, or in about 10% of the localities where plankton has been sampled. The majority of records are from the eastern part of south Norway, but it has also a scattered distribution in the rest of the country including the northernmost part. Though it is found as high as 1244 m a.s.l., it is most commonly found 100-300 m a.s.l. In humic water it is found at pH around 5.0, otherwise most records are from water bodies having pH > 5.5. *D. cristata* is found in a relatively high frequency in electrolyte poor water (< 1.5 mS/m), though the highest frequency is found between 2 and 7 mS/m.

