

Diacyclops abyssicola (Lilljeborg 1901)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars 1913

Genus Diacyclops, Kiefer 1927

Key characteristics:

This is a very distinct and easily recognisable species, differing from the other cyclopoids by its conspicuously external appearance. Its body is short and stout; this also applies to the antennae which consist of only 10 segments. The habitué may resemble species in the genus Paracyclops spp., but the structure of its legs, protruding from the body, tells us that this is a genuine species. Its colour is whitish, with a touch of rose or violet.

Female: Length 0.7-0.8 mm

Male: Length xx mm

Distribution:

G.O. Sars found this species only in muddy bottoms in Lake Mjøsa at about 10 m depth. Since Sars it has been found in the littoral of eight water bodies southeast of Oslo. These are situated 10-129 m a.s.l., and varying in size (2-2500 da). pH varies between 6.2 and 7.6., while the level of electrolytes is high (5-84 mS/m). According to Lilljeborg, *D. abyssicola* has been found down to about 50 m depth.

