

Diaptomus castor (Jurine 1820)

Family Diaptomidae, G.O. Sars 1903

Genus *Diaptomus* Westwood 1836

Key characteristics:

D. castor is the largest among diaptomid species in Norway, and has a somewhat robust form. The antennae are short, reaching slightly beyond the last thorax segment. The furca is short, and the two branches are about twice as long as they are broad. The inner ramus of the last pair of legs (p5) carries two slender and elongated spines on the tip, which is a character that separates this species from other calanoids. The female is generally yellowish or orange, the male more reddish.

Female: Length 1.8-3.7 mm

Male: Length: smaller

Distribution:

G.O. Sars found *D. castor* in four small ponds, three located in the south and one in Nordland County (not shown in the map). Later the species has only been found once in a newly constructed wetland just west of Oslo. Two adult specimens were found, respectively one male and one female. They occurred in early May and though the pond has been sampled twice a month for the following three years, no more individuals have been found. The actual pond is characterized by high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen.

