

Eucyclops serrulatus (Fischer 1851)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus Eucyclops, Claus 1893

Key characteristics:

E. serrulatus has a body which is moderately slender and with a furca which is about 4-6 times as long as wide. Populations sampled in early spring or late autumn may have a furca that is somewhat longer. The outer margins of each branch have a dense row of small teeth. The last joint of the antennae has a smooth surface. The colour is more or less dark olivaceous with a greenish tinge.

Female: Length 0.8-1.5 mm

Male: Length 0.6-0.8 mm

Distribution:

E. serrulatus is the most common littoral copepod in Norway and occurs in 40 % (867 localities) of the water bodies. It is distributed in all parts of Norway, from sea level and up to 1486 m a.s.l. It occurs with its highest frequency in localities below 300 and above 1000 m a.s.l. and is common in micro- and macrophyte vegetation in both small pools and in the littoral zone of big lakes. The species has a wide tolerance towards pH and is found in lakes having pH varying between 4.0 and 9.9. It is also tolerant towards electrolytes and is found in brackish water (957.0 mS/m).

