

Eudiaptomus gracilis (G.O. Sars 1863)

Family Diaptomidae, G.O. Sars

Genus Eudiaptomus, Kiefer 1932

Key characteristics:

Its body is very slender and the lateral expansion of the last thorax segment forms an outer angle which is somewhat more prominent in *E. gracilis* than in *A. denticornis*. Its furca is short, about twice as long as wide, while the anterior antennae are long and slender extending far beyond the furca (in some cases as much as the 4 or 5 outer joints). *E. gracilis* is generally very pellucid and almost colourless, but in some cases with a broad transverse band of a chocolate hue across the anterior division.

Female: Length 1.0-2.0 mm

Male: 1.0-1.5 mm

Distribution:

E. gracilis is distributed in the south/southwest and north eastern part of Norway. It is the most common species among Diaptomids and occurs in 25% (570 localities) of the lakes. It is found with highest frequency in lakes >1 da which are situated below only 300 m a.s.l. However it is common also at higher elevations but above 1000 m a.s.l. it has been found twice. It is acid tolerant as well, as it is found in alkali water (pH>7.5).

The contents of electrolytes seem to mean less for its distribution.

