

Graptoleberis testudinaria (Fischer 1848)

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus Graptoleberis, Sars 1862

Key characteristics:

Originally Baird ascribed *G. testudinaria* to the genus *Alona*. According to Sars, who found it so distinguished from all other chydorids, a new genus was established for this species. Especially the shape of its head is characteristic in being wide and spatula shaped. Its carapace has penta- and hexagonal cells. The post abdomen is small and has small bundles of hairs instead of denticles, while the basal spine is very small compared to other chydorids. Its colour is light grey.

Female: Length 0.4-0.7 mm

Male: Length 0.4-0.5 mm

Distribution:

G. testudinaria is found in ca 11% of the water bodies (249 localities). The majority of records are from South-Norway where it is randomly distributed. In North Norway it has a more scattered distribution. It occurs from sea level (4 m a.s.l.) and up to 1371 m a.s.l., with its highest frequency in lakes below 500 m a.s.l. It occurs in water bodies of all sizes and in all sorts of vegetation, as well as on stony and sandy bottom. pH varies between 3.9 and 8.6, and it occurs with high frequencies at both low (<5.0) and high pH (>7.0). *G. testudinaria* has been found in both electrolyte rich (84 mS/m), and in dilute water (0.5 mS/m).

