

Lathonura rectirostris (O.F. Müller 1785)

Family Macrothricidae Norman et Brady

Genus *Lathonura*, Lilljeborg 1853

Key characteristics:

This species may resemble *Drepanothrix dentata* except for its carapace which has a more oval form and does not have the thorn-like spine in the middle of the dorsal edge. Its head is large, approximately one third of its carapace. Its eye is also large situated in the front of the head. The first antennae are long and slender, while all segments which constitute the three segmented, two-branched second antennae, have the same size. Its postabdomen is small, and has a characteristic shape, which is difficult to see without dissecting the animal. The colour of *L. rectirostris* varies between grey and brown often with a yellowish tinge.

Female: Length 0.8-1.2 mm

Male: Length 0.5-0.8 mm

Distribution:

There are 59 records of this littoral species, which has a scattered distribution throughout the country, and is found from close to sea level (10 m a.s.l.) to 778 m a.s.l. The majority of records are from ponds and ditches (<1 da) situated 100-300 m a.s.l. Except for a few records, all are from water with pH > 5.5 and conductivity > 3.0 mS/m. It is normally associated with dense watervegetation.

