

# Leydigia leydigi (Schoedler 1863)

Family Chydoridae

Genus Leydigia Kurz 1874

## Key characteristics:

Seen from the side the carapace of this species has a more or less rectangular form with the highest point in the posterior end. In contrast to the majority of cladocerans its eye is smaller than the ocellus. The postabdomen is very spectacular, always protruding from the carapace. Its dorsal side is curved with the highest point near the middle. Laterally it has 9-12 bundles which each consist of 5-8 setae of varying size. Its colour varies from flaxen to a dark yellowish red colour. Some specimen may also be free for colours.

Female: Length 0.7-1.0 mm

Male: Length 0.6-0.8 mm

## Distribution:

*L. leydigi* is a littoral species only recorded from three lakes situated 30-50 km southeast of Oslo. Two of the records were made by G.O. Sars in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, while the third is from the year 2002. All three lakes lie in marine sediments and may be characterized as eutropic. pH is between 7.0 and 8.0. *L. leydigi* lives in the upper layer of the bottom sediment, often at some meters depth. According to the Norwegian red list it is considered as near threatened (NT).

