

Macrocyclus albidus (Jurine 1820)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus Macrocyclus, Claus 1893

Key characteristics:

The cephalothorax of *M. albidus* has an oval form with the greatest width somewhat in front of the middle. The last pair of leg (p5) in *Macrocyclus* sp are easily distinguished from other cyclopoids by the long setae on the last segment. Compared with *M. fuscus* the tail is more slender, though the two branches are relatively short, approximately twice as long as wide. The inner edge of the two branches is not ciliated. The anterior antennae are composed of 17 joints, reaching approximately to the third segment of cephalothorax, and the last joint has a thin hyaline membrane with a smooth surface. It has a yellowish grey colour, with a more or less distinct olivaceous tinge.

Female: Length 1.7-2.5 mm.

Male: Length 1.0-1.3 mm.

Distribution:

M. albidus is a littoral copepod found in one third (734 localities) of the water bodies. It is found in all parts of Norway from sea level to 1444 m a.s.l., and with its highest frequency between 100 and 300 m a.s.l. (51%). It occurs in water bodies of all sizes, and seems also to be quite tolerant towards both acidity and trophity. However, the frequency of *M. albidus* increases with both increasing pH and content of electrolytes. In electrolyte rich localities (> 10 mS/m) it has been found in 73% of the water bodies.

