

# Megacyclops viridis (Jurine 1820)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars 1913

Genus Megacyclops, Kiefer 1927

## Key characteristics:

*M. viridis* is the smaller of the two species that belongs to the genus *Megacyclops* in Norway. Compared with species in the genus *Cyclops*, their body is somewhat more robust and P5 (last pair of leg) are very characteristic. *M. viridis* is distinguished from *M. gigas* by the length of the inner seta of the tail, which in *M. viridis* is more than twice as long as the outer seta. The furca itself is shorter than in *M. gigas*. Its colour is variable, including bluish green and olivaceous as the most common colours.

**Female:** Length 1.2-1.3 mm

**Male:** Length 1.0 mm

## Distribution:

*M. viridis* is a common littoral copepod found in 10% (213 localities) of the localities. It has a scattered distribution and occurs from sea level to 1396 m a.s.l., with the highest frequency below 300 m a.s.l.. It occurs in water bodies of all sizes, though ponds with a surface area <0.1 da, seem to favourite the species (>18%). *M. viridis* is tolerant to differences in pH (4.5-9.9) and occurs in both electrolyte poor and electrolyte rich water, being most common the latter.

