

Mixodiaptomus laciniatus (Lilljeborg 1889)

Family Diaptomidae, G.O. Sars

Genus *Mixodiaptomus*, Kiefer 1932

Key characteristics:

M. laciniatus is a medium sized, rather robust calanoid species. Adult females can not be mixed up with any other species because of the appearance of the last thorax segment. On both sides this segment laterally is produced into two very conspicuous lobes. P5 can easily be used to identify adult males. The colour of *M. laciniatus* is sometimes dark blue and sometimes reddish orange.

Female: Length 1.0-1.6 mm

Male: 1.0-1.4 mm

Distribution:

Except for the areas east of Oslo, *M. laciniatus* is widely distributed and found in 11% (230 localities) of the localities. Except for very small ponds (< 0.01 da), surface area doesn't seem to affect its distribution. It occurs at all elevations, but is the only copepod which occurs with highest frequency in water bodies above 1000 m a.s.l. *M. laciniatus* has colonized a number of lakes after liming and is categorized as a weakly acid-sensitive species. Except for a few, all records are from localities with pH ranging from 5.5 to 7.7. It is rare in very electrolyte rich water (>10mS/m).

