

Monospilus dispar (Sars 1861)

Family chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Monospilus*, Sars 1861.

Key characteristics:

M. dispar seen from side, has a more or less square form with a relatively short rostrum. The carapace has several layers of concentric valves because the old carapace remains attached to the new one formed. The post abdomen is short and thick, and evenly rounded towards the end. The abdominal claw is especially strong with a long spicule at its basis. *M. dispar* has only an eyespot (ocellus) and no proper eye. The carapace is slightly transparent with a strong yellow colour.

Female: Length 0.3-0.6 mm

Male: Length 0.3-0.5 mm

Distribution:

M. dispar is a littoral species recorded from 43 locations, which is less than 2 % of the water bodies. It has a scattered distribution and occurs from 4 to 791 m a.s.l. *M. dispar* is only found in localities with a surface area >1 da and occurs with a frequency of 10% in lakes larger than 1000 da. It is found both in vegetation as well as on stony bottom. *M. dispar* is not found in the most acid localities (pH<4.5), while conductivity is varying between 1,5 mS/m and 15 mS/m.

