

Pleuroxus laevis (Sars 1862)

Family chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Pleuroxus*, Baird 1843

Key characteristics:

Seen from the side, it is oval, and comparatively much slimmer than other species belonging to the genus *Pleuroxus*. Its rostrum is long and bends sharply posteriorly to the level of the tip of the first pair of antennae. The shape of the postabdomen is also different being slender and tapering strongly towards the end. Close to the posterior end there are two relatively long and thin spicules which make a contrast to the small spicules (about 10) anteriorly on the postabdomen.

Female: Length 0.5-0.7 mm

Male: Length 0.4-0.5 mm

Distribution:

P. laevis is a littoral species recorded from 51 localities in Norway which are mainly situated in the central parts of South-Norway. The species has also been found in the far north (Troms county). The locations containing *P. laevis* are of varying sizes and are situated between 3 and 801 m a.s.l. It is found both in vegetation and on muddy bottom. pH is varying between 4.3 and 7.3 with the majority of records from water bodies having pH > 5.5. Conductivity is varying between 0.8 and 46 mS/m

