

# *Simocephalus vetula* (O.F. Müller 1776)

Family Daphniidae Sars

Genus *Simocephalus* Schoedler 1858

## Key characteristics:

*S. vetulus* has a comparatively small head, noticeably delimited from the carapace by a depression on its dorsal side. Maximum height of the carapace is situated posterior to the middle. The most distinguishing character for *S. vetulus* in which it differs from respectively *S. expinosus* and *S. serrulatus*, is the peculiar elongated shape of the eyespot. This may be less evident in very young individuals. *S. vetulus* is more transparent than the two other species of this genus.

Female: Length 1.3-3.8 mm

Male: Length 1.1-1.3 mm

## Distribution:

*S. vetulus* is a littoral species which is widely distributed in Norway and found in about 12% of the water bodies. It is known as an early colonist of newly constructed ponds or after disturbances in established water bodies. It is much more common below 500 m a.s.l. than above. Though it is rare above 1000 m a.s.l., it is found as high as 1400 m a.s.l. The highest frequency of *S. vetulus* is found in small ponds and ditches. It occurs most commonly in near neutral water and is rare in acid water. The conductivity varies between 0.7-46 mS/m.

