

# *Thermocyclops crassus* (Fischer 1853)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus *Thermocyclops*, Kiefer 1927

## Key characteristics

The body of *T. crassus* is rather short and stout and its furca is about twice as long as wide. With respect to these criteria it is possible to distinguish this species from *M. leuckarti* and *T. oithonoides* which may co-occur with *T. crassus*. To separate *T. crassus* from *T. dybowskii*, the ratio between the outer and the inner setae attached to the furca can be used. The ratios are respectively 2:3 in *T. dybowskii* compared with 1:3 in *T. oithonoides* and *T. crassus*. Its colour is very pellucid with a faint yellowish tinge.

Female: Length 0.9-1.1 mm

Male: Length 0.7 mm

## Distribution:

G.O. Sars found this species twice, south-east of Oslo. Since then there have been only five records of *T. crassus*, all within the catchment of Lake Vansjø where Sars found the species too. *T. crassus* is quite common in four lakes upstream Lake Vansjø (25-129 m a.s.l.) and the fifth record is from the vegetated shores of the main river. pH in these sites is close to neutral (6.9-7.1) and conductivity varies between 5 and 11 mS/m. According to the Norwegian red list *T. crassus* is considered as vulnerable (VU).

