

Thermocyclops oithonoides (G.O. Sars 1863)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus *Thermocyclops*, Kiefer 1927

Key characteristics

T. oithonoides is the smallest species among the planktonic copepods. It has a long and slender body form. Based on its habitués it is therefore relatively easy to distinguish this species from *M. leuckarti* and the two other species which belongs to the *Thermocyclops* genus. In addition, the short length of the outer seta attached to the furca, can be used as a criterion to define *T. oithonoides*. Its body is highly pellucid, with a faint yellow tinge.

Female: Length 0.8-1.0 mm

Male: Length 0.7 mm

Distribution:

T. oithonoides is mainly a plankton species which is found in 4.4 % (96 loc.) of the localities, and its occurrence is restricted to the lowland of south-east Norway. All records, except for three, are from water bodies situated below 300 m a.s.l. Though it is found in water bodies of all sizes the chance to find *T. oithonoides* increases when surface area increases. It has a relatively wide tolerance to pH (4.7-7.9) and electrolyte rich water seems to favourite the species which co-occur with *M. leuckarti* in 78% of the actual water bodies.

