

Alona affinis (Leydig 1860)

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Alona*, Baird 1843

Key characteristics:

A. affinis is the largest species in the genus *Alona*. Its postabdomen is vigorous, has an oval form and is similar to the postabdomen of *A. quadrangularis* with altogether 10-15 denticles. It differs from the latter species having 4-6 fine spinules on the basal spine close to the base in the abdominal claw. In contrast to *A. quadrangularis*, *A. affinis* have two instead of three head pores. Its colour varies with brown and red as the dominating colours.

Female: 0.6 - 1.3 mm

Male: 0.7 - 0.9 mm

Distribution:

A. affinis is a littoral species which occurs in 43% of the localities and is the most common of the *Alona*-species. It is distributed in all parts of the country from sea level and to 1396 m a.s.l. with the highest frequency at low altitudes. It's common in all types and sizes of water bodies, and lives both in vegetation and on stony/sandy bottom. The species have a wide tolerance towards pH (pH 3.9 - pH 9.1). *A. affinis* has been found in brackish water (957.0 mS/m). Occurs also in very dilute mountain waters (0.4 mS/m).

