

# *Alona guttata* Sars 1862

Family chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus *Alona*, Baird 1843

## Key characteristics:

The habitus of *A. guttata* is quite similar to *A. rectangula* but it is considerably smaller. Right from the tip of the rostrum, the whole dorsal edge of the shell forms an evenly curved arch. The shape of its postabdomen is characteristic and ends in a rather strongly protruding, sharp corner. There are 8-10 short but strong denticles on each side of the postabdomen. Its carapace is fully punctuated and is rather transparent with a touch of green/brownish colour.

Female: Length 0.3-0.5 mm

Male: Length 0.3-0.4 mm

## Distribution:

*A. guttata* is a quite common littoral species found in 498 (23%) of the water bodies. It is widely spread throughout the country from the coast to the alpine zone (1350 m a.s.l.), with its highest frequency between 100 and 300 m a.s.l. (38%). It occurs in localities of all sizes. Differences in pH do not seem to affect the occurrence of *A. guttata*, which has been found in localities with pH ranging from 3.9 to 9.9. The frequency of records of *A. guttata* increase with increasing levels of electrolytes in the water.

