

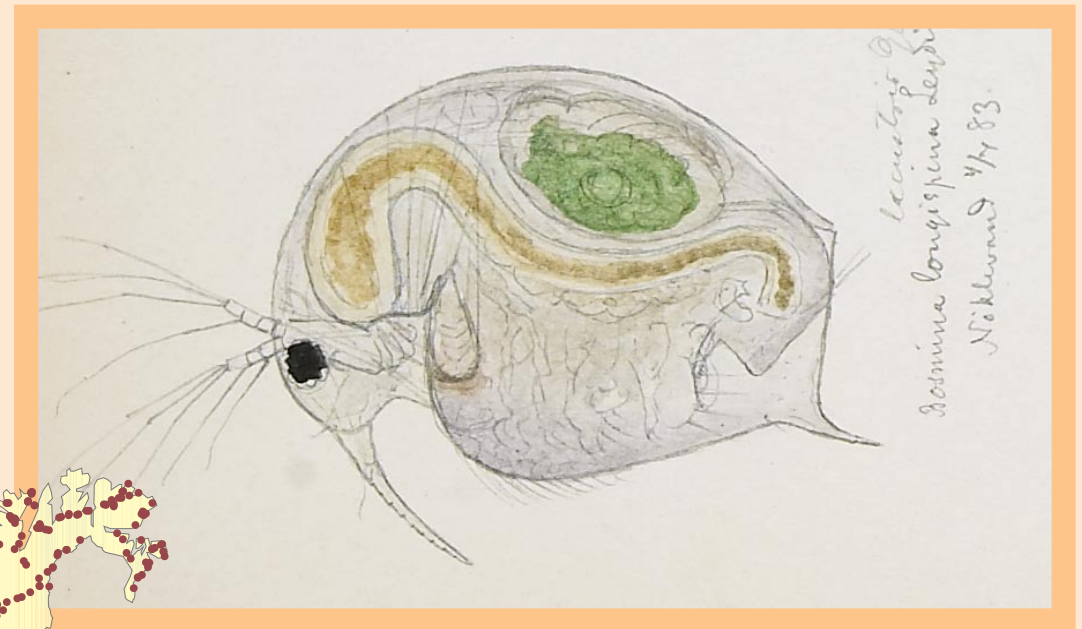
# *Bosmina longispina* (O.F. Müller)

Family Bosminidae

Genus *Bosmina*, Baird 1845

## Key characteristics:

Seen from the side this species has an almost circular shape, being short and wide. Its head is evenly rounded anteriorly, and ventrally it ends in a fairly long ventrally directed rostrum (1 antennae). *B. longispina* can be distinguished from *B. longirostris* by the way the rostrum is tapered to the rest of the body, being more continuous in *B. longirostris* than in *B. longispina*. While the dorsal edge of the carapace is strongly arched, the ventral edge has an almost imperceptible incurvature midway, posteriorly ending in a pointed process (mucro). The abdominal claw has 6-7 teeth decreasing in size towards the end. The species is more or less colourless, but littoral specimen may have a brown tinge.



Female: Length 0.4-1.2 mm

Male: Length 0.4-0.7 mm

## Distribution:

*B. longispina* is the most common cladoceran in Norway, both in the zooplankton and in the littoral zone. It occurs in nearly 90% of all water bodies. The frequency decrease slightly above 1000 m a.s.l., though it is found as high as 1500 m a.s.l. It is the dominating species in water bodies of all sizes, but it occurs with lower frequency (40%) in ditches and small ponds (<0.01 da) than in lakes. Due to pH and conductivity *B. longispina* is more common in acid, electrolyte poor water than in alcalic, electrolyte rich water.

