

Cyclops insignis (Claus 1857)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus Cyclops, O.F. Müller 1785

Key characteristics:

C. insignis is the largest species in this genus. Its antennae consist of 14 joints which distinguish this species from all other species within the genus *Cyclops*. It has a furca, which is comparatively longer than in the other *Cyclops*-species, and the two branches have a narrow linear form and are only slightly divergent. *C. insignis* can be distinguished from its relatives by the appearance of the seta attached to the 1st basal segment of the 4th pair of legs. As in *C. scutifer*, this is much coarser than in other *Cyclops*-species. Its colour is yellowish, with a more or less distinct olivaceous tinge.

Female: Length 2.1-2.8 mm

Male: Length approximately 2.5 mm

Distribution:

C. insignis is found in 28 water bodies, that is slightly more than 1% of the surveyed localities. Except for one (County Finnmark), all records are from the vicinity of Oslo and the majority are from ditches and small ponds situated in the lowland. pH < 6.5 was only measured in two of these water bodies which were characterised by high levels of electrolytes. It is a winter form with diapause in summer, and therefore it has only been common in early spring and late autumn.

