

Daphnia longispina O.F. Müller 1785

Family Daphniidae

Genus *Daphnia* O.F. Müller 1785

Key characteristics:

Its body is generally more slender than in other species of this genus. Seen from the side its head comprises about one third of the carapace. Cyclomorphosis is less evident compared to other daphniids. Its abdominal spine is comparatively long, thereby its name. Its compound eye is large with very distinct crystal lenses. The eyespot (oscellus) is small lying roughly midway between the eye and the dorsal edge of the head. It is rather hyaline, sometimes with a yellowish, greenish grey or brownish grey tinge.

Female: Length 0.9 -2.3 mm

Male: Length 1.0-1.7 mm

Distribution:

D. longispina is our most common daphniid and is distributed all over the country with equal frequency from sea level to 1495 m a.s.l. Though it is mainly looked upon as a plankton species found in about 40% of the investigated lakes, it is also common in ponds and in the littoral of small lakes where it may co-occur with *D. pulex*. It is used as an indicator of non acidic condition. However when the humus content is high, it may be found in acid water. The content of electrolytes in water bodies that contains *D. longispina* varies a lot.

