

Macrocylops fuscus (Jurine 1820)

Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars

Genus *Macrocylops*, Claus 1893

Key characteristics:

This is one of the largest copepods in the littoral. Its cephalothorax has an oval form, with the greatest width in front of the middle. The last pair of leg (p5) in *Macrocylops* sp are easily distinguished from other cyclopoids by the long setae on the last segment. The furca in *M. fuscus* is short, approximately twice as long as wide and the inner edges of the caudal branches are densely covered by hair. The anterior antennae are composed of 17 joints reaching to the end of the third segment of the cephalothorax. The last segment of the antenna has a thin hyaline plate with the proximal half coarsely denticulated. It has a dark fuscous colour, often with a greenish or bluish tinge.

Female: Length 1.8-4.0 mm

Male: Length 1.0 mm

Distribution:

M. fuscus is widely distributed in Norway and found in about 13 % (280 localities) of the water bodies. It occurs with a relatively high frequency up to 1000 m a.s.l., but above this altitude there is only one record.

In contrast to *M. albidus* it is most common in acidic water bodies, and when pH is between 4.5 and 6.0 it occurs with a frequency of more than 20%. *M. fuscus* is found in electrolyte poor as well as in electrolyte rich water.

