Paracyclops affinis (G.O. Sars 1863)
Family Cyclopidae, G.O. Sars
Genus Paracyclops, Claus 1893

Key characteristics:
Like other species that belongs to this genus, P. affinis has short antennae (11 joints). The anterior part is conspicuously broad and flattened. This species is distinguished from its relative P. poppei by the appearance of the furca which is shorter, about twice as long as wide. As in P. fimbriatus, dorsally the two branches of furca are crossed by a row of small spines. The habitués of this species is somewhat like Ectocyclops phaleratus which is larger and looks even more robust than P. affinis. Its colour is generally dark bluish grey.

Female: Length 0.7-0.9 mm
Male: Length 0.6-0.7 mm

Distribution:
Among species in the genus Paracyclops, P. affinis is the most common, found in 180 localities, which is 8% of the investigated lakes. The majority of records are from localities below 300 m a.s.l. and it is never found above 1000 m a.s.l. It is found in water bodies of all sizes, and seems also to be quite tolerant towards acidity. P. affinis occurs with higher frequency in electrolyte rich water than in electrolyte poor water.

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