

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 habitus 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.

