

Simocephalus expinosus (Koch 1841)

Family Daphniidae Sars

Genus *Simocephalus* Schoedler 1858

Key characteristics:

The carapace of *S. expinosus* has a shape which is very similar to that of *S. vetulus*, even the head which is comparatively small, and noticeably delimited from the carapace by a depression on the dorsal side. In contrast to *S. vetulus* the eyespot of is not elongated but more or less circular. The abdominal claw in *S. expinosus* is easily distinguished from the two other *Simocephalus* species having a varying number of teeth (12-22) at the base. *S. expinosus* is less transparent than *S. vetulus* and has a yellowish brownish-oliveaceous colour.

Female: Length 1.3-4.2 mm

Male: Length 1.0-1.5 mm

Distribution:

According to G.O. Sars this species was one of the most common cladocerans in the vicinity of Oslo. Since then, until the middle of the 1990s, this species was only found once in a pond north of Oslo. However in the last decade there have been more than 50 records of this species, all from the same region (south east). Water bodies containing *S. expinosus* are generally small, pH is about neutral and conductivity is high (>7 mS/m). Except for two, all records are from localities situated below 300 m a.s.l.

