

Simocephalus serrulatus (Koch 1841)

Family Daphniidae Sars

Genus *Simocephalus* Schoedler 1858

Key characteristics:

This species may be distinguished from respectively *S. vetulus* and *S. expinosus* by its head which is small and much more pointed in front. Furthermore the edge of the head has 2-4 small teeth. Like *S. expinosus* the eyespot is more or less circular. The posterior end of carapace is protruding into a serrated process. The abdominal claw in *S. serrulatus* has no teeth at the base. The colour varies from blue-yellowish to olivaceous brown sometimes with a greenish tinge.

Female: Length 1.0-2.5 mm

Male: Length 0.7 -1.0 mm

Distribution:

S. serrulatus is found in 32 of the localities (2.5%). It has a scattered distribution with the majority of records from the south eastern part of the country. Except for one, all records are from waterbodies situated below 300 m a.s.l. Though this species has been associated with humus rich water bodies, it also occurs in water of varying pH and conductivity. It is mainly found in ponds and small lakes.

