

# Alonella exigua (Lilljeborg 1853)

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus Alonella, Sars 1862

## Key characteristics:

*A. exigua* shows great similarities to *A. excisa*, but the polygons found in the structure of the shell of *A. excisa* do not have the small longitudinal lines inside. Furthermore its postabdomen is slightly shorter compared to *A. excisa*. The rostrum is relatively short and the ventral-posterior corner has a few small blunt denticles. The colour is grey or red-brown.

Female: Length 0.3-0.5 mm

Male: Length 0.2-0.3 mm

## Distribution:

*A. exigua* is not as common as *A. excisa* and is found in ca 12 % of the localities. It is a littoral species which has a scattered distribution in Norway. *A. exigua* is found between 5 and 1268 m a.s.l., and its frequency decreases both towards the sea level and towards the alpine zone, including a few records from above 1000 m a.s.l. The species occurs in water bodies of all sizes, in different stands of vegetation, and in water with pH varying between 3.9 and 9.0. Its frequency increases slightly when conductivity increases.

