

Chydorus sphaericus (O.F. Müller 1785)

Family Chydoridae, Stebbing

Genus Chydorus, Leach 1816

Key characteristics:

The morphology and size of *C. sphaericus* varies a lot. However, populations of small individuals are most common. There is also a large amount of minor morphological variations between populations. To distinguish *C. sphaericus* from the close relative *C. ovalis* it has a less rounded outline of the poster ventral corner. Post abdomen has 7-10 relatively small denticles with little variance in size. The colour varies with different variants of brown, but also with elements of green.

Female: Length 0.3-0.5

Male: Length 0.2-0.4

Distribution:

C. sphaericus occurs in 2/3 (67%) of the water bodies, and only *B. longispina* and *A. elongata* are recorded from more localities. It is found in all parts of Norway from sea level and up to 1545 m a.s.l. The frequency of water bodies that contains *C. sphaericus* is not varying with altitude. It is common in localities of all sizes and lives in a great variety of habitats. *C. sphaericus* is a very tolerant species and is recorded from lakes varying in pH between 3.7 and 9.9 and conductivity between 0.4 and 957 mS/m (brackish water).

