

Obtusoecia obtusata (Sars, 1865)

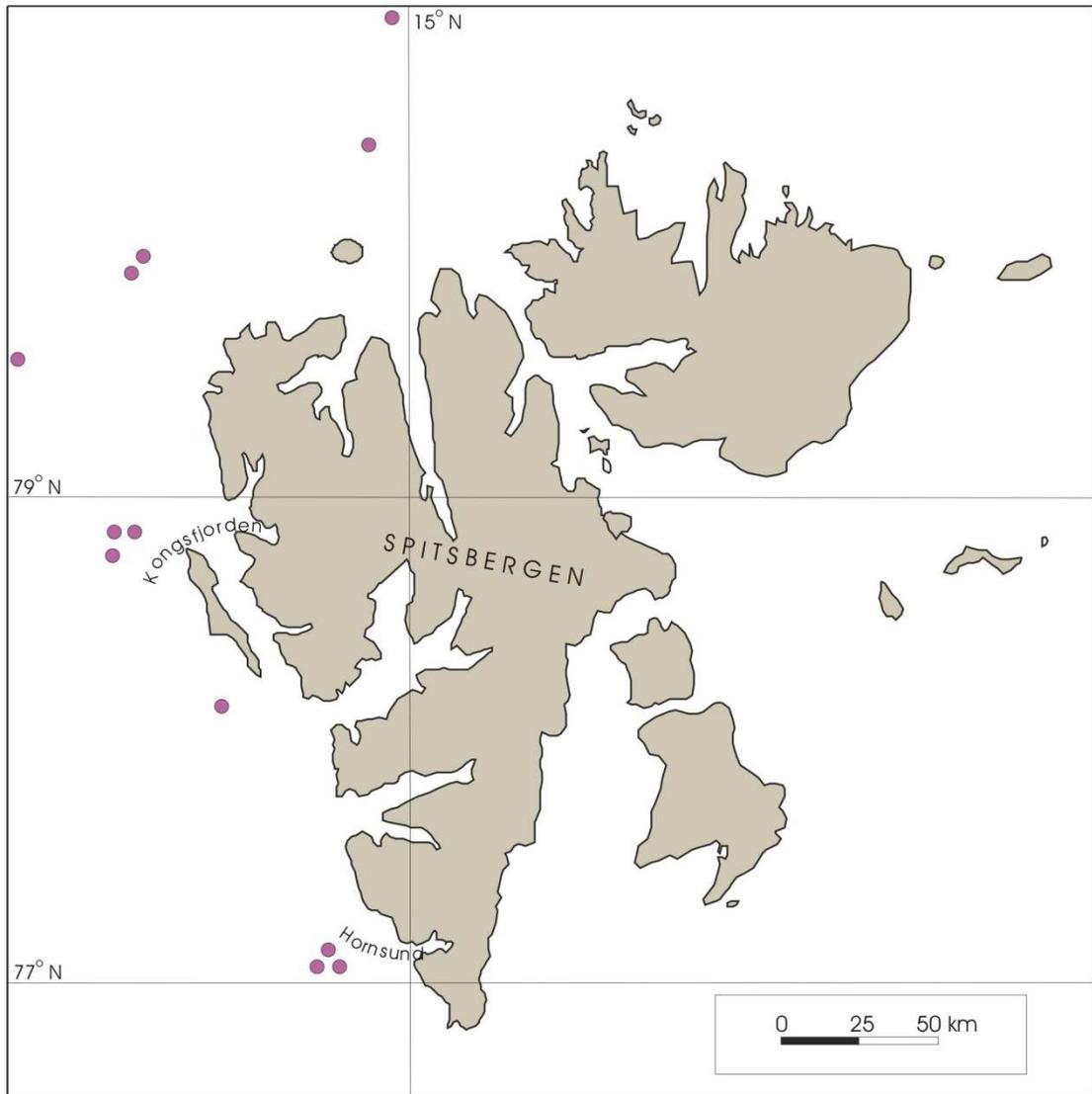
No. of individuals recorded – 125

The smallest in size (♀ 1.58-1.86 mm and ♂ 1.14-1.30 mm) species which ranked fourth in Ostracoda abundance in the waters around Svalbard. This was one of the earliest species to be described from samples collected off the Lofoten Islands in the Atlantic off the northwest coast of Norway. For example Williams (1975) commented that this species can contribute 79% of Ostracoda populations in lower latitudes of North Atlantic waters, but all his data came from the Continuous Plankton Recorder that is towed at depths of only about 8 m, and would not be true if he had collections from mesopelagic and bathypelagic depths. It is another of the species reported by Sars (1866) from the Norwegian Sea, a well-known endemic to the boreal and temperate North Atlantic (Angel & Fasham 1975; Poulsen 1977; Angel & Blachowiak-Samolyk 2006). *Obtusoecia obtusata* has been recently reported as occurring very infrequently quite far north in the Arctic by Russian researchers and contributed 4-20% of pelagic Ostracoda, and even 50% near Islands of Franz Josef Land. This suggests a close relationship between its abundance and the inflows of West Spitsbergen Current into the Svalbard area, so this species may be a good indicator of any climatic changes that lead to a general warming of the Arctic.

Obtusoecia obtusata has been characterized as being a relatively shallow dwelling species (Grainger 1965; Williams 1975; Poulsen 1977; Angel & Blachowiak-Samolyk 2006), and this was also confirmed in the current study.

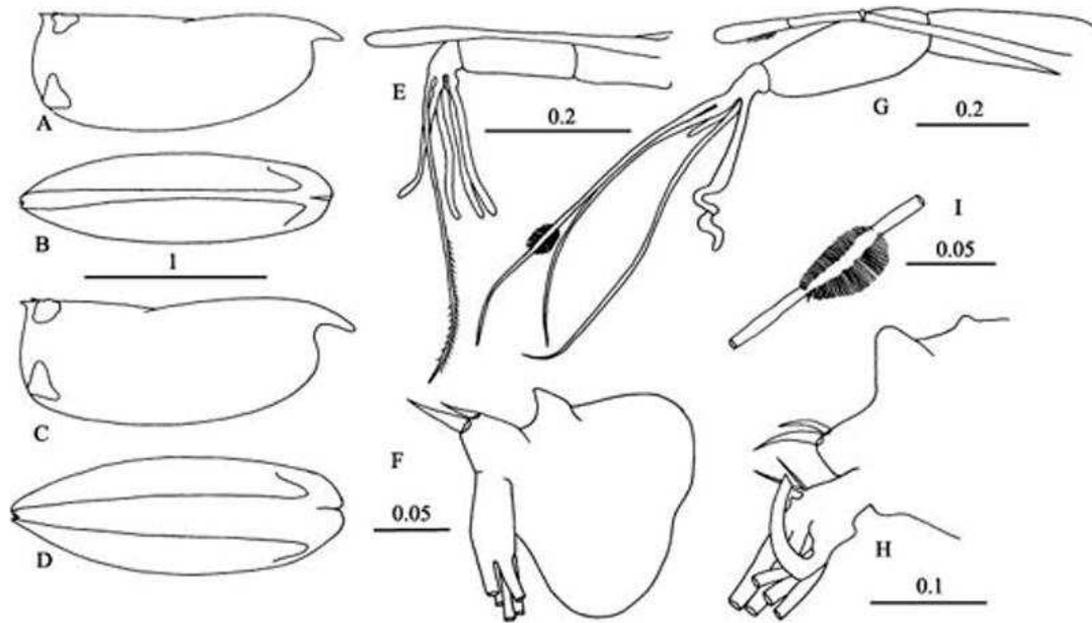
Table with sizes ranges [mm] of all developmental stages of *O. obtusata* found in Svalbard waters from the adult (Ad) female and male to the youngest A-6 stage:

Developmental stage	Sizes ranges	
	min	max
Ad female	1.58	1.86
Ad male	1.14	1.30
A-1	1.04	1.34
A-2	0.82	1.02
A-3	0.56	0.80



Obtusoecia obtusata distribution

Discoconchoecia elegans



Sketches of the carapace shapes of adult females (A, B) and males (C, D); the first antennae and frontal organs and the endopodite of the left second antennae of females (E, F) and of males (G and H) and the details of the armature of the male first antenna setae (I).

Carapace shape of *Obtusoecia obtusata* female:



Frontal organ of *Obtusoecia obtusata* female:



Carapace shape of *Obtusoecia obtusata* male:



Frontal organ of *Obtusoecia obtusata* male:

