**Oncaea media**
Giesbrecht, 1891

**Phylum**  | Arthropoda
---|---
**Order**  | Poecilostomatoida
**Family**  | Oncaeidae

**Synonyms**
None

**Size**
Female: 0.65 – 0.96 mm

**Genus notes**
- Body cyclopiform, prosome & urosome divisions well defined
- Promose & urosome of female 5-segmented; urosome of male 6 segmented
- Prosome elongate to elongate-oval
- 1st antenna short, with reduced number of segments
- 2nd antenna 3-segmented, with terminal segment shorter than that of first segment
- Labrum medially incised
- Mandible complex, with 3-5 subterminal elements
- First maxilla small, bilobed
- Maxilliped a well-developed claw in both sexes
- P1-4, exopods and endopods essentially 3-segmented and leg 5 a single free segment (small rod or knob shaped) or represented by 1-3 setae
- P2, 3 & 4 of some species terminated with a conical process btw 2 apical spines
- To distinguish between adult and juvenile look for genital openings & count urosome somites
- Urosome generally slender

**Female**
- Exoskeleton moderately chitinised
- Prosome 2.6x length of urosome, excluding caudal rami, 2.2x urosome length including caudal rami
- P2 bearing somite without projection
- Genital double somite 1.9 times as long as maximum width (in dorsal aspect) and 2.6x as long as postgenital somites combined
- Double-curved sclerotization between genital apertures
- Anal somite 2x wider than long, about 2/3 length of caudal rami

**Note**
Closely related to *O. scottodicarloi*, to separate look at:
- Proportional lengths of urosome segments; elongated genital segment in *O. media*, genital segment is 2x as long as the rest of urosome
- Form and location of sclerotization between genital apertures; in *O. media* genital openings are closer to top 1/3 of genital segment, in *O. scottodicarloi* genital openings are almost ½ way from top genital segment
- Relative lengths of endopod spines of P4

Compiled: F. E. Coman & A. S. Slotwinski 2012
Verified: K. M. Swadling 2013

Böttger-Schnack (2001)

Giesbrecht, 1891

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female</th>
<th>0.5 mm</th>
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<tr>
<td>0.5 mm</td>
<td>preserved specimen</td>
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Böttger-Schnack (2001)
**Oncaea media**  
Giesbrecht, 1891

**Phylum**  
Arthropoda

**Order**  
Poecilostomatoida

**Family**  
Oncaeidae

**Size**  
Male: 0.56 – 0.67 mm

**Male**  
- Prosome 2.2x length of urosome, excluding caudal rami, 1.9x urosome length, including caudal rami
- Caudal rami about as long as wide, much shorter than female

**Distribution**  
- Epipelagic-mesopelagic  
- Inshore, coastal and oceanic  
- Australian distribution includes Gulf of Carpentaria, Great Barrier Reef, the North West Cape, New South Wales and south east including Tasmania  
- World distribution: widespread in tropical and sub tropical waters of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans

**Ecology**  
- Eggs carried in paired sacs  
- Omnivorous  
- Feeds on small zooplankton and appendicularian houses, that form marine snow containing phytoplankton and bacteria

**Source**  
Böttger-Schnack (2001)  
Heron & Bradford Grieve (1995)  
Nyan Taw (1978)  
Ohtsuka et al (1996)  
Razouls et al (2010)

(Full reference available at  
http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/zooplankton/references)