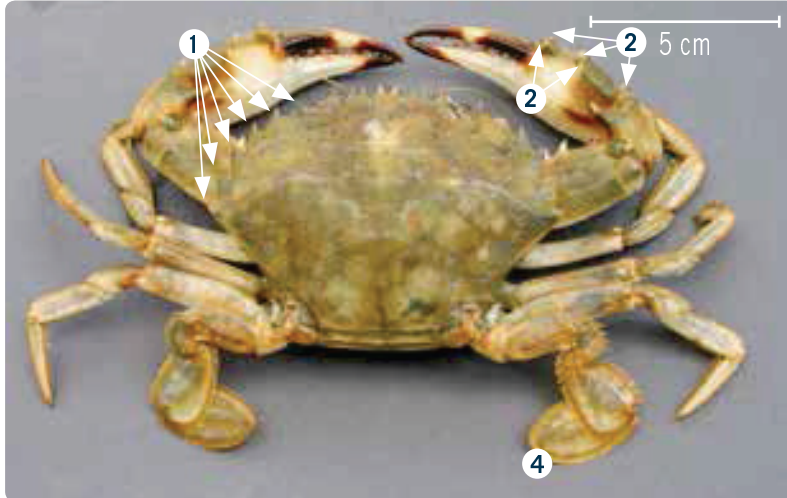


ASIAN PADDLE CRAB

Charybdis japonica

Key features

- ❶ Six prominent spines on each side of the carapace
- ❷ Five prominent spines on upper surface of each claw



Colin McLay

- ❸ Carapace up to 12 cm wide
- ❹ Flattened swimming paddles on back legs



Serena Wilkens

- ❺ Colour ranges from off-white and pale green, through olive-green to a deep chestnut brown with purplish markings



Serena Wilkens

Habitat

- Low tide to 15m depth
- Sand and mud
- Estuaries, harbours and most coastal habitats

Impact

- Highly detrimental to shellfish aquaculture
- Aggressive predator
- Displaces native and fisheries species
- Can carry diseases that affect crab, lobster, shrimp and prawn fisheries



NATIVE SPECIES THAT LOOK SIMILAR



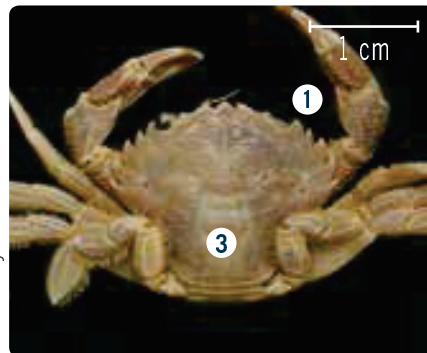
How to differentiate *Charybdis japonica* from:

Ovalipes catharus
SWIMMING/PADDLE CRAB



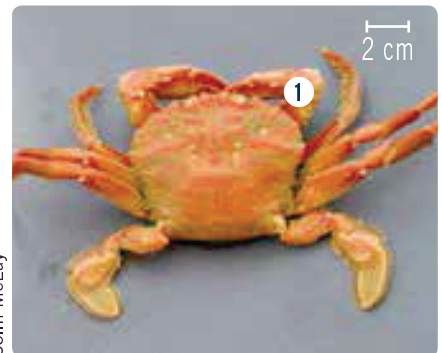
- 1 *Ovalipes* has five flattened spines on each side along the front and extending around the sides (not six pointed spines along the front as in *C. japonica*)
- 2 One prominent spine on the claw
- 3 Two distinct reddish “spots” on the carapace
- 4 Pale sandy-grey with orange-red highlights
- 5 Swimming paddles often with purplish tint

Liocarcinus corrugatus
DWARF SWIMMING CRAB



- 1 *Liocarcinus* has five spines on each side (not six)
- 2 Much smaller – maximum 2.5 cm wide
- 3 Fine corrugations over most of the shell

Nectocarcinus antarcticus
HAIRY RED SWIMMING CRAB



- 1 *Nectocarcinus* has four spines on each side (not six)
- 2 Red to pinkish-red colouration