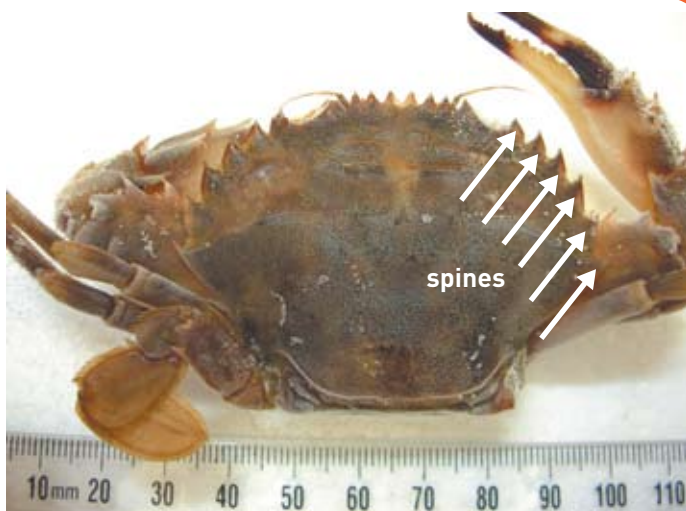


# MARINE PEST:

## Lady crab

*Charybdis japonica*



### Key features

- 5 distinct spines on upper surface of foreclaw
- 6 spines on each side of eyes
- Swimming paddles on last set of legs
- Red/purple/orange to pale green & off-white shell
- Shell up to 12 cm wide

### Habitat

- Mobile; found on or buried in firm, fine sand or mud
- Subtidal to 15 m depth
- Estuarine & marine areas

### Impacts

- Can carry White Spot Syndrome virus which can devastate native & farmed prawns, crabs & lobsters

### Known locations

- Not yet in Australia

Likely to establish



### REPORT IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE KNOWN LOCATIONS!

1. Note the exact location
2. If possible, collect a sample and freeze in a plastic bag or take a photo
3. See [www.marinepests.gov.au](http://www.marinepests.gov.au) for your state contacts



An Australian Government Initiative

## What it is not

### Native species that look similar to the pest



Pacific swimming crab  
*Charybdis helleri*

#### Key Features

- 4 spines on foreclaw
- 6–8 spines on either side of eyes
- Shell up to 14.5 cm wide

#### Habitat

- Under rocks & coral; on rocky, sandy & muddy shores & coral reefs to 30 m depth
- Lower intertidal, subtidal

#### Known Locations

- Native to tropical Australia (north coast NT, central east & north-east coast Qld, north-west coast WA); Indo-west central Pacific Oceans



Blue swimmer crab  
*Portunus pelagicus*

#### Key Features

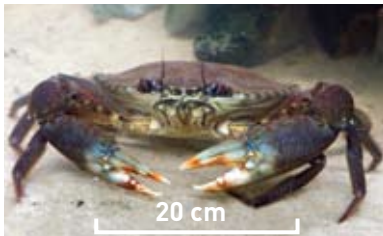
- No spines on either side of eyes
- Bright blue legs & claws

#### Habitat

- Sheltered sand, intertidal & subtidal to 70 m depth
- Sheltered bays & inlets
- Shell up to 21 cm wide

#### Known Locations

- Tropical Australia, south to Cape Naturaliste WA, & Eden NSW; South Australian gulfs



Mud crab  
*Scylla serrata*

#### Key Features

- 9 spines either side of eyes
- Large robust claws
- Shell up to 25 cm wide

#### Habitat

- Mangroves, sheltered estuaries & coastal tidal flats

#### Known Locations

- Northern Australia (Exmouth, WA to Bega River, NSW); isolated records from Mallacoota estuary, Vic, Swan River, WA & south-west WA estuaries

## What you can do

- Inspect & clean niche areas & antifoul your vessel regularly
- Clean & dry equipment before transporting & using in a different location

## Learn more

Read the national biofouling management guidelines for your sector.

[www.marinepests.gov.au](http://www.marinepests.gov.au)

#### Photograph credits

This side: Darryl Felder, University of Louisiana USA (top); Keith Davey (centre & bottom)  
Reverse side: All images provided by Aroha Millar, NIWA

This collaborative effort is supported by the Australian Government, state and territory governments, marine industries, researchers and conservation groups.

Last revised August 2008