

MARINE PEST:

Chinese mitten crab

Eriocheir sinensis



Key features

- Hairy "mittens" on claws unlike any Australian crab
- 4 spines on either side of eyes
- 4 sharp spines in between eyes
- Shell is smooth & up to 8 cm wide

Habitat

- Burrows into mud on river banks, estuaries & coastal areas
- Adults in freshwater for first 4–5 years
- Usually tropical waters

Impacts

- Burrowing causes erosion; damages fishing gear & impacts aquaculture activities
- Hosts liver fluke (*Paragonimus* species) that is harmful to human health

Known locations

- Not yet in Australia
- Likely to establish



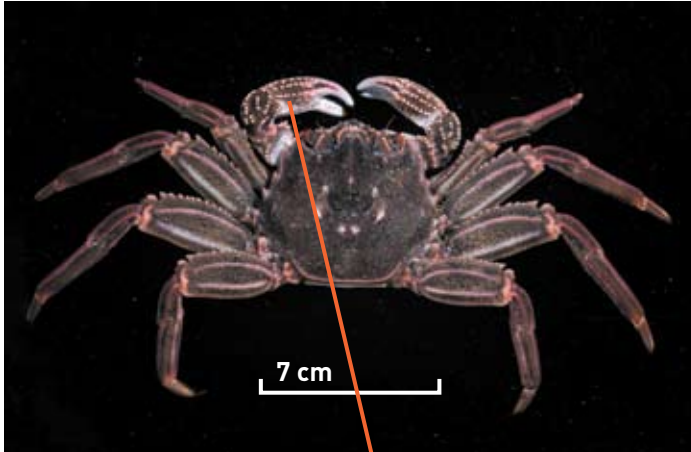
REPORT IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE KNOWN LOCATIONS!

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 for your state contacts



What it is **not**

Native species that look similar to the pest



Red bait crab *Plagusia chabrus*

Key Features

- Front of shell deeply notched between the eyes
- Claws hairless with bumps & ridges
- Orange/red shell covered with dense fine hair, darker red on walking legs
- Shell up to 7 cm wide

Habitat

- Exposed rocky shores
- Lower intertidal, usually subtidal (to 50 m depth)

Known Locations

- Hervey Bay, Qld; NSW; Vic; Tas; SA; southern WA to Bunbury

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

Photograph credits

This side: Michael Marmach, Museum Victoria
Reverse side: All images provided by Stephan Gollasch, GoConsult

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