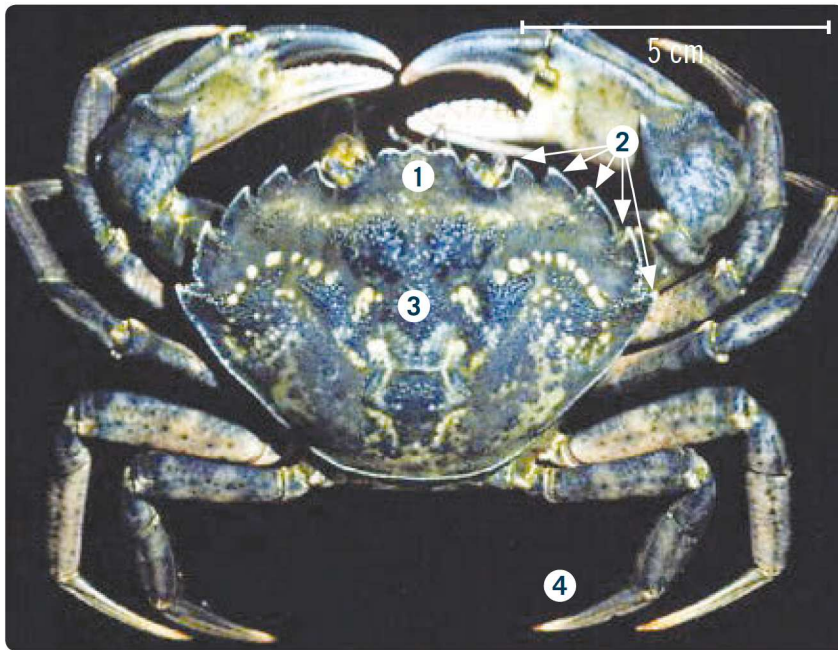


EUROPEAN SHORE CRAB

Carcinus maenas

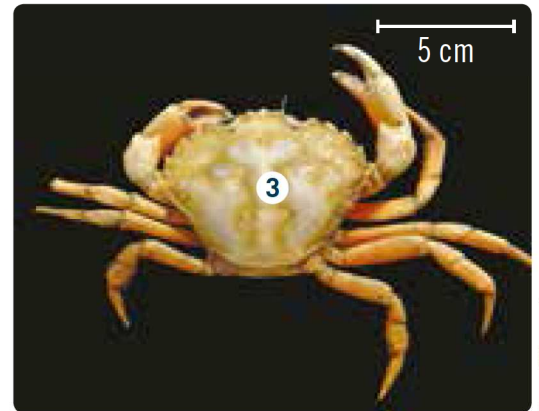
Key features

- 1 Three rounded “teeth” or lobes between the eyes
- 2 Five spines on each side
- 3 Adult up to 8 cm wide



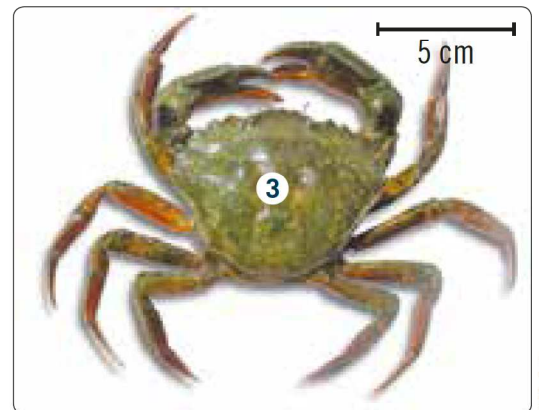
Michael Marmach

- 4 No swimming paddles on legs
- 5 Juveniles generally lighter in colour than adults



Hans Hillewaert

- 7 Adult colour varies from green on top and yellowish underneath, to mottled red and orange above and orange or partly red underneath



A.M. Arias

Habitat

- Intertidal to 60 m depth
- Sand, mud, rock or seagrass beds
- Estuaries, harbours and coasts
- Generally nocturnal

Impact

- Can form dense colonies (up to 200 per m²)
- Aggressive and highly effective predator
- Displaces native and fisheries species
- Highly detrimental to shellfish aquaculture
- Can collapse wild-harvest shellfisheries
- Facilitates other pest invasions



'If found anywhere in New Zealand, immediately call

0800 80 99 66

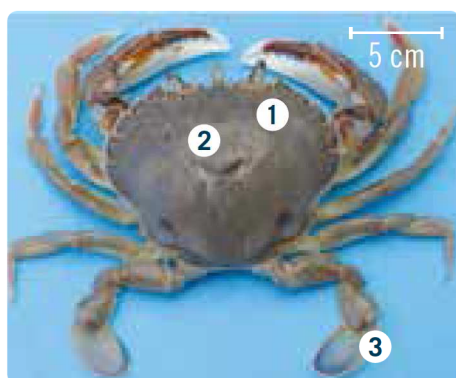
NATIVE SPECIES THAT LOOK SIMILAR



Michael Marmach

How to differentiate *Carcinus maenas* from:

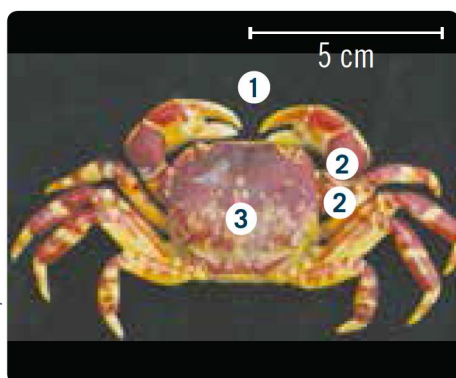
Ovalipes catharus SWIMMING/PADDLE CRAB



Colin McLay

- 1 *O. catharus* is larger – carapace width up to 15 cm, compared to 8 cm in *Carcinus*
- 2 *O. catharus* is sandy grey in colour with orange-red highlights
- 3 *O. catharus* has paddles on rear legs for swimming

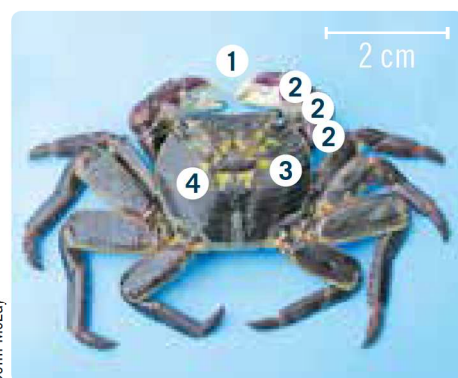
Hemigrapsus sexdentatus COMMON ROCK/ SHORE CRAB



Colin McLay

- 1 *H. sexdentatus* has no spines/lobes between the eyes
- 2 *H. sexdentatus* has two (not five) spines on outer edges of carapace
- 3 *H. sexdentatus* has a distinctive square purple-and-cream carapace
- 4 *H. sexdentatus* is smaller – maximum width about 4 cm

Leptograpsus variegatus PURPLE ROCK CRAB



Colin McLay

- 1 *L. variegatus* has no spines/lobes between the eyes
- 2 *L. variegatus* has three spines on each side of the carapace behind the eyes
- 3 *L. variegatus* has grooves on the surface of the carapace
- 4 The carapace is variegated with many colours including green, brown, purple and cream
- 5 *L. variegatus* has a carapace less than 7.5 cm wide