



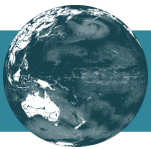
Asian paddle crab

Charybdis (Charybdis) japonica (A.Milne-Edwards, 1861)

KEY FEATURES



- Large swimming crab up to 11 cm carapace width, carapace and limbs are hairy, though the extent of cover varies considerably within populations
- Maximum carapace width in Korean population 10.9 cm (males) and 9.6 cm (females)
- Colour ranges from pale green to olive green, to a deep chestnut brown with purplish markings on the carapace
- Crabs found in New Zealand tend to have yellow-orange and brown-orange markings on the shell and legs with white tips on the claws
- Inhabits intertidal to subtidal estuarine habitats and is found on several different substrates from fine muds to reefs

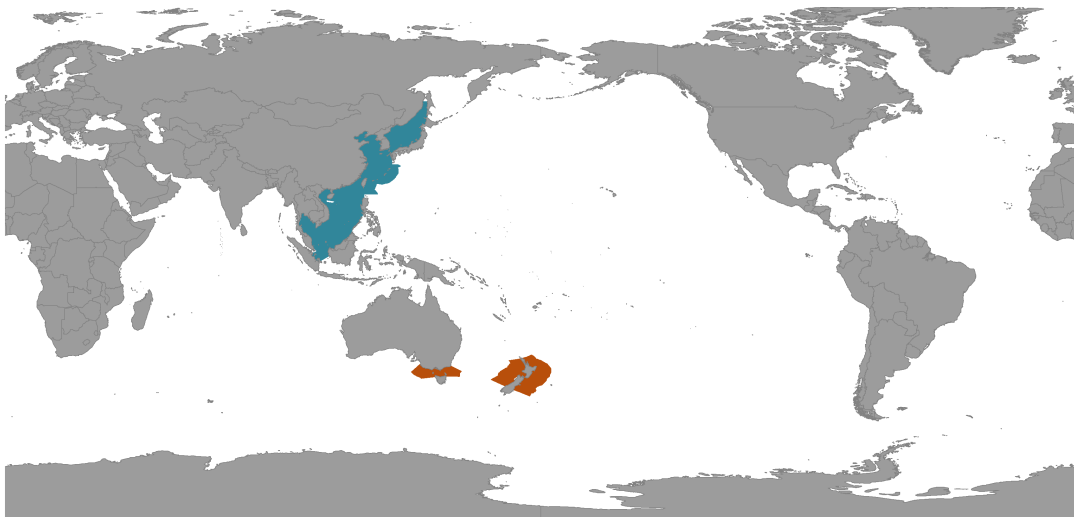


PATHWAY

✓ Ballast water

✓ Biofouling

- Native
- Cryptogenic
- Non-indigenous

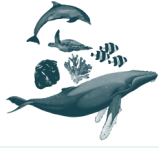




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IMPACTS



Environmental impacts

Aggressive crab that can compete with native crabs and other benthic species for habitat and food



Human health impacts

Demonstrated to bioaccumulate toxins, such as paralytic shellfish poison, through predation on filter-feeding molluscs. Consumption by humans following a toxic algal bloom event could cause illness. Nuisance species to recreational water users as can inflict a vicious bite when disturbed



Social & cultural impacts

None known



Economic impacts

Predator of aquaculture species and known carrier of the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV). This virus has the potential to affect commercially important fishery species. Can be transferred from natural environments to aquaculture facilities, potentially causing widespread fatalities

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Adults can produce hundreds of thousands of offspring and it is thought that reproduction is limited to seawater temperatures of over 20°C
- Larvae are relatively long-lived and can survive for three to four weeks, potentially facilitating spread to new areas. Adults are also capable of swimming large distances

DISTRIBUTION

Native range Northwest Pacific including China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia

Non-indigenous range New Zealand, single record from Australia

CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

Images Top and bottom: Chris Woods, NIWA ([CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](#))

References [Tang et al. \(2020\)](#), [Miller et al. \(2006\)](#), [Hewitt et al. \(2011\)](#), [Oikawa et al. \(2004\)](#), [Maeda et al. \(1998\)](#), [Hayes & Sliwa \(2003\)](#)

