

Eriocheir sinensis

Chinese mitten crab

Invasive to Maine

Freshwater & Coastal

Carapace (Shell)



Central Fisheries Board

PERMITTED USE

The shell (carapace) has four spines on either side, and reaches a width of approximately 3 inches (80 mm).

Full View



Defrevre Christophe, WoRMS



The main identifying features of the mitten crab are the dense patches of hairs on the white-tipped claws of larger juveniles and adults.

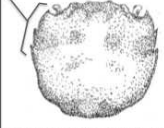

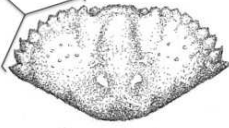
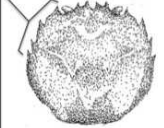
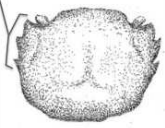

Legs and Claws



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PERMITTED USE

The legs of the adult crab are generally more than twice as long as the width of the carapace. The claws are equal in size.

INVASIVE SPECIES (LESS THAN SIX SPINES)		NATIVE SPECIES (MORE THAN SIX SPINES)
3 spines  Hemigrapsus sanguineus	5 spines  Carcinus maenas	8-10 spines  Cancer irroratus
4 spines  Eriocheir sinensis	3 spines  Hemigrapsus penicillatus	8-10 spines  Cancer borealis

Additional



Eva the Weaver flickr.com



Chinese mitten crabs are omnivores, eating both plants and animals.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

The Chinese mitten crab is a cousin of the invasive Asian shore crab but unlike the Asian shore crab, the Chinese mitten crab has small hairs on its claws. It is the only crab in North America that can be found in freshwater.

Fun Fact

The Chinese mitten crab is native to the Yellow Sea in Korea and China. This crab is thought to have arrived from China as larvae in ballast water. Mitten crabs migrate into the sea for reproduction, but spend the rest of their lives in the freshwater.