

Hemigrapsus sanguineus

Invasive to Maine

Asian Shore Crab,
Japanese Shore Crab

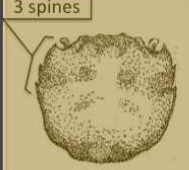
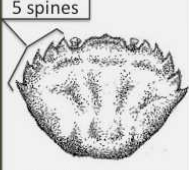
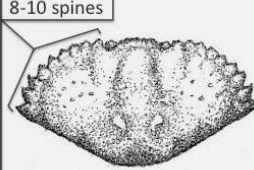
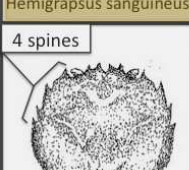
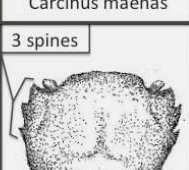
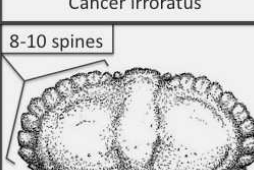
Coastal
Rocky Intertidal

Carapace (Shell)



VS user Team Rocket!, Falmouth Middle School

Look for a carapace (shell) that is up to 4 cm wide and has **THREE** spines on the outside of each eye. The shell can look almost square. Hint: Asian shore crab is three words and the Asian shore crab has three spines.

| 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 |

Full View



VS user MSK CV, Middle School of the Kennebunks

Look for a crab with a square shell and banded legs.

Legs and Claws



VS user MSK CV, Middle School of the Kennebunks

Look for light and dark-colored bands on the legs. Look for a fleshy bulb-like structure on the claw (between the pinchers).

Additional



VS user Rock3, Loranger Middle School

The Asian shore crab often has spots on its claws. Sometimes they can be bright red!

Similar Species

The Asian shore crab is very similar to the hairy-clawed shore crab. One easy way to tell the two apart is to look at the claws. The Asian shore crab has a fleshy bulb-like structure between the pinchers of the claw. The hairy-clawed shore crab has a tuft of hair in the same spot.

Did You Know?

The larvae (baby crabs) of the Asian shore crab float near the surface of the water for about a month before they develop legs and claws and begin to live on the ocean bottom. This larval stage allows them to be carried long distances and end up in new places.