

Japanese shore crab



AKA Asian crab

Small crab with a square carapace (shell) and 3 distinct 'teeth' on either side. Colour varies from orange-brown to purple to greenish-black, with banding on the walking legs and red spots on the pincers (claws). Native to the western Pacific Ocean, it arrived in the UK in ballast water and attached to boat hulls.



Key Facts

- Small size (max 5 cm)
- Red spots on the claws
- Found on shorelines, estuaries, mussel beds & oyster reefs
- Pushes out native crab species
- Damages oyster & mussel populations

Habitat

Shorelines, estuaries, mussel beds, oyster reefs.

Impacts

Reaches high numbers, outcompetes native crabs for food and space. Damages mussel and oyster populations.

Don't confuse it with...
 Common green shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

- Harmless native species
- 5 short teeth behind each eye on the carapace
- 3 undulations between each eye

REPORT IT - STOP THE SPREAD

Use the free smartphone app '**That's Invasive!**' to ID and report invasive species.

