



Swimming crab

Charybdis (Charybdis) hellerii (A.Milne-Edwards, 1867)

KEY FEATURES



- Medium-sized swimming crab with a hexagonal carapace and six prominent frontal teeth between the orbital lobes
- Cheliped claws massive and unequal
- Maximum carapace length for males is approximately 8 cm and for ovigerous females 5.7 cm
- Colour in life mottled, brown, orange, grey; cheliped claws with spines distally brown, fingers distally black with white tips
- Adults use a broad range of intertidal and subtidal habitats, including natural rock, riprap, coral reefs, coral rubble, mangrove roots, seagrass beds, and patches of subtidal algae
- Long larval life of 44 days enhances the potential for long distance spread
- Territorial omnivore adapted to exploit a wide variety of food resources

PATHWAY



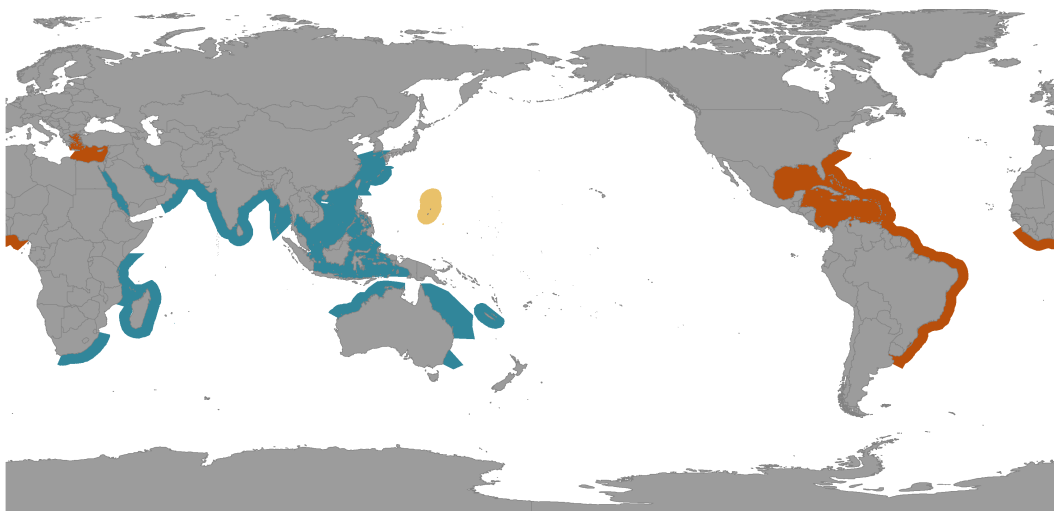
Ballast water

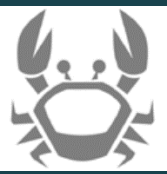


Biofouling



aquaculture transfer

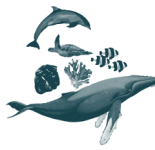




Swimming crab

Charybdis (Charybdis) hellerii (A.Milne-Edwards, 1867)

IMPACTS



Environmental impacts

Territorial omnivore that can feed on smaller native crabs and can compete for food and habitat. An established population could affect local crab populations and therefore fisheries



Human health impacts

None known



Social & cultural impacts

None known



Economic impacts

A potential carrier of the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV), a virus that infects other species of decapods and can be transferred from natural environments to aquaculture facilities, potentially causing widespread fatalities. Economic impacts from such events have not been quantified

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Short generation time, maturing at a much smaller size than other species of *Charybdis*, rapid growth

DISTRIBUTION

NOT PRESENT IN TUVALU

Native range

Indo-West Pacific, with a native range spanning from the Red Sea and East Africa, throughout the Indian Ocean, to northern Australia and New Caledonia, and north to China and Japan. It is considered cryptogenic in Guam

Non-indigenous range

Eastern Mediterranean Sea and the Western Atlantic, from North Carolina to Brazil

CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

Images

Top: Nuno Simoes from [Simoes and Wakida-Kusunoki 2019 \(CC BY-4.0\)](#), bottom: MNHN - Museum national d'Histoire naturelle (2020) ([CC BY-SA 4.0](#))

References

[Evans et al. \(2018\)](#), [Mantelatto and Garcia \(2001\)](#), [Negri et al. \(2018\)](#), [Sant'Anna et al. \(2012\)](#), [Simoes and Wakida-Kusunoki \(2019\)](#)