

# Hemigrapsus sanguineus

Asian Shore Crab,  
Japanese Shore Crab

Invasive to Maine

Coastal  
Rocky Intertidal

## Carapace (Shell)



Ken-ichi Ueda, www.flickr.com



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.

## Full View



Dr. Jenn Forman Orth, www.flickr.com



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

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

Artwork by Brandon O'Keefe

## Legs and Claws



Filip Nuyttens, www.marinespecies.org



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

## Additional



Sandy Richards, www.flickr.com



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

[www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org)

## 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.

## Fun Fact

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.