

Callinectes sapidus Blue crab

Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Malacostraca
Order: Decapoda
Family: Portunidae



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Synonymised Taxa

Callinectes sapidus acutidens Rathbun, 1896
Portunus diacantha Latreille, 1825

Larval Period

The zoea stage is between 30 and 50 days then remains as megalopa between 6 and 58 days.

Habitat

The species prefers a mud or sand substrate in estuaries or coastal zones. Occupies shallow subtidal areas to 37 m depth.

Temperature Tolerance

7 to 30°C

Salinity Range

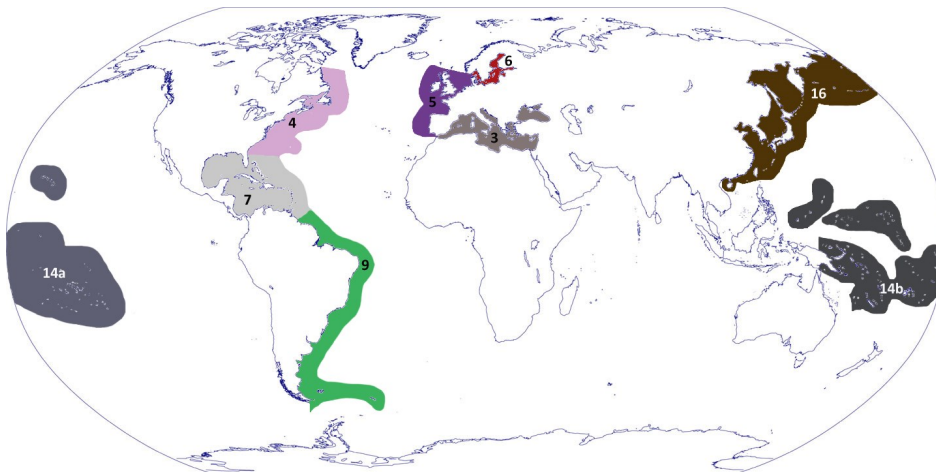
Tolerates a wide range of salinities. Survives in almost fresh water but also occupies offshore ocean.

Size

Up to 250 mm

Distribution (Bioregions)

Native: 4, 7, 9 **Introduced:** 3, 5, 6, 14, 16



List

- Woodside
- WA species of concern

Key Features

- **Bright blue along the frontal areas, in particular the chelipeds.** The remainder of the body is olive brown. The **females have red dactyls**;
- **Rostrum has 2 ridges between the eyes.** Eyes are not at the widest point of the carapace;
- The 1st leg is the longest, containing the chelipeds. There are **5 spines on the merus**. There is **1 spine between the carpus and propodus**;
- The 2nd, 3rd and 4th legs are pointy and spine-like;
- 5th leg has a paddle-shaped dactyl for swimming;
- The carapace has **9 anterolateral teeth** on each side. The 9th is a strong spine;
- The **carapace is wider than it is long**, with the widest point being at the 9th anterolateral teeth;
- Females have a broad abdominal flap, whereas the males is narrow and shaped like an inverted 'T'.

