

FACT SHEET - AUSTRALIAN MUD CRAB



Characteristics

Mud Crabs are a large crustacean with a broad, smooth, hard shell called a 'carapace'. They have big claws used for crushing and cutting prey. Mud Crabs have two back legs that are flattened for swimming, like flippers. Mud Crabs are generally very dark brown to mottled green in colour.

Size

Mud Crabs can reach up to 24cm across the carapace (shell) and weigh up to 3.5kgs.

Habitat

Mud Crabs are saltwater crabs that live in tropical to warm temperate water along most of the coast of Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. They love soft muddy banks below the low tide level, and generally live in sheltered bays, mud flats, mangroves and in creeks.

Diet

Mud Crabs are omnivores. They eat both plant and meat. They are also cannibals as they eat other crabs! Mud Crabs like fresh food, in particular fish, kangaroo, steak and chicken.

Did you know?

A male crab is called a Buck and a female crab is called a Jenny.
In the book *The Claw*, Clive is a mud crab and both Snippy and Jenny are blue swimmer crabs.



FACT SHEET - AUSTRALIAN BLUE SWIMMER CRAB



Characteristics

Blue Swimmer Crabs are crustaceans with a broad, hard, rough shell called a 'carapace'. Their carapace has a pointy spike that sticks out on each side. Blue Swimmer Crabs have long, slender claws used for catching, holding and crushing prey. They have two back legs that are flattened for swimming, like flippers or paddles. Blue Swimmer Crabs vary in colour from brown to blue and purple, with pale mottling. Females have distinct peachy, orange coloured nippers and are usually much smaller in size than the males.

Size

Blue Swimmer Crabs can reach up to 21cm across the carapace (shell) and weigh up to 1kg.

Habitat

Blue Swimmer Crabs are saltwater crabs that live in coastal waters all around Australia, except for the southern stretch where the water is very cold. They are frequently found in large numbers in shallow and sheltered bays and on the edge of weedy banks.

Diet

Blue Swimmer Crabs are omnivores. They eat both plant and meat. They are also cannibals as they eat other crabs! Blue Swimmer Crabs like fresh food, in particular fish, kangaroo, steak and chicken.

Did you know?

A male crab is called a Buck and a female crab is called a Jenny.

In the book *The Claw*, Clive is a Mud Crab and both Snippy and Jenny are Blue Swimmer Crabs.



Fact Sheets Knowledge Quiz Test

(accompanies Crab Fact Sheets)

Circle the correct answer

1. What is a carapace on a crab?

Shell

Tongue

Flipper

2. How heavy can Mud Crabs get?

3kg

3.5kg

1kg

3. What do crabs like to eat?

Chicken

Fish

People

4. What is a female crab called?

Mrs Crab

Jenny

Suzy

5. What is a male crab called?

Mr Crab

Trevor

Buck



Fact Sheets Knowledge Quiz Test – Answer Sheet

(accompanies Crab Fact Sheets)

Circle the correct answer

6. What is a carapace on a crab?

Shell

7. How heavy can Mud Crabs get?

3.5kg

8. What do crabs like to eat?

Chicken

Fish

9. What is a female crab called?

Jenny

10. What is a male crab called?

Buck

