

Carcinus maenas

European green crab



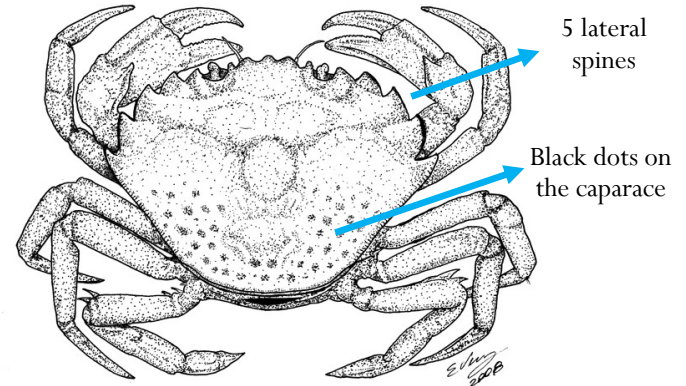
MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE OF ARGENTINA

DESCRIPTION

- 5 lateral spines on each side of the carapace.
- Color variable, dark green with black dots on the upper carapace.



Adult carapace width: up to 9 cm.



HABITAT

Usually lives under rocks, in tidepools, protected areas, of the low intertidal and the first meters of the subtidal. It can be found either in sandy, muddy and rocky bottoms, but prefers the later. It tolerates a wide salinity range.

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SIMILAR SPECIES

Cyrtograpsus angulatus is a native crab, with a carapace grey-green without dots (although it may present 2 circular white spots on the upper carapace). The carapace have 4 lateral spines, and is approximately hexagonal. Could be find in shallow waters, muddy or rocky bottoms. It can dig shallow burrows on mud.

Carcinus maenas



Cyrtograpsus angulatus



STATUS INVASION

Native to the Atlantic coast of Europe and detected in Argentina since 2000. The present distribution is from Camarones bay (44° 49' S) to Puerto Deseado (47° 45' S). Its ecological effects are unknown for this region but it can be an active predator over several mollusks and crabs species competing with native fishes and birds for the same food resource. It was found in early 2015 in Puerto Madryn.

CONTACT US

This guide has been developed by the Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC), from CENPAT (CONICET). If you find this species outside the reported areas, please contact us and let us know the date, locality, approximate number of individuals and, if possible, send us pictures:

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