

Crabs



El Fernekees Hartshorn



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Arjan Gittenberger



El Fernekees Hartshorn

Carcinus maenas

Green Crab

Non-Native

Hemigrapsus sanguineus

Banded Shore Crab

Non-Native

Identification

- Typically dark green or green-yellow with dark mottling, but sometimes other colors such as dark brown, red, or cream
- Trapezoid-shaped carapace up to 3.5 inches wide
- Five spines on each side of the carapace and three spines between eyes
- Common in sheltered coastal habitats

5
spines

Distribution

- First reported in New England in the mid-1800s, multiple introductions have occurred since
- Found throughout New England and the Canadian Maritimes
- Native to the Northeast Atlantic

- Orange-brown, olive green, maroon, or purple
- Alternating light and dark bands on legs
- Square-shaped carapace up to 2 inches wide
- Three spines on each side of carapace and no spines between eyes
- Common in the intertidal

3
spines

- First reported in New England in the 1990s
- Found throughout New England and the southern portions of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia
- Native to the Northwest Pacific

Crabs: Similar Species



Maria Conchita

Callinectes sapidus
Blue Crab

Native

- Green-blue with long front legs and large, slender blue claws
- Flared carapace with a long last spine
- Capace width up to 9 inches
- Swimming crab with paddle-like hind legs
- More abundant south of Cape Cod, but becoming more common north of the Cape
- The native Lady Crab, *Ovalipes ocellatus*, also has swimming legs, but does not have the long carapace spine or blue coloration

**9
spines**



Lexie Neffinger

Cancer spp.
Jonah and Atlantic Rock Crabs

Native

- *C. borealis* (Jonah Crab, above left) and *C. irroratus* (Rock Crab, above right) are reddish brown or light purple with nine spines on each side of their carapace
- Carapace width up to 5 inches
- *C. borealis* has bumpy spines, *C. irroratus* has smooth spines
- Both are found in intertidal to deeper waters throughout New England and into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia

**9
spines**



Cristina Kennedy

Family Panopeidae
Mud Crabs

Native

- Dark to light brown with large, dark-tipped claws
- Three spines on each side of carapace
- Small, carapace width up to 1.5 inches
- Common in muddy habitats and on docks
- Some common species in the Northwest Atlantic include *Panopeus herbstii* (Atlantic Mud Crab, above), *Dyspanopeus sayi* (Say Mud Crab), and *Rhithropanopeus harrisii* (Harris Mud Crab)

**3
spines**