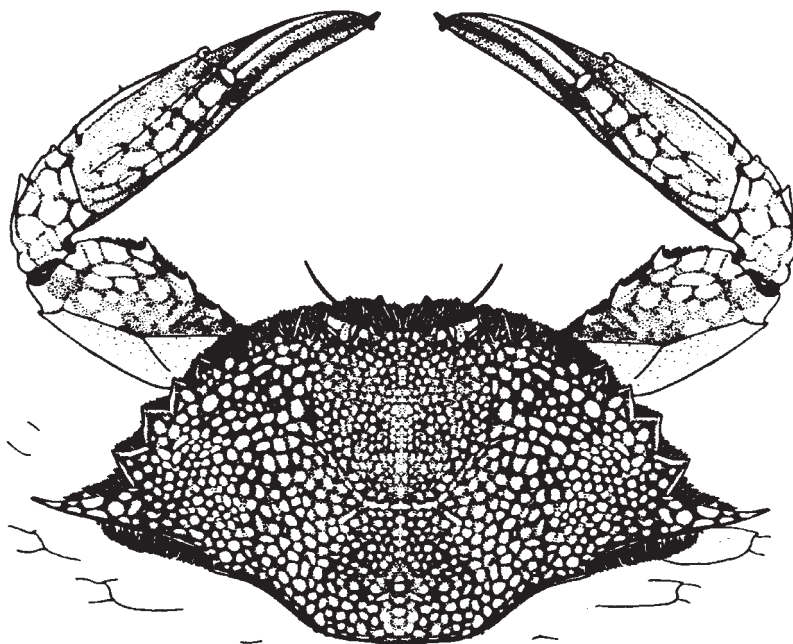


PORTUNIDAE

Arenaeus cribrarius (Lamarck, 1818)

RSQ

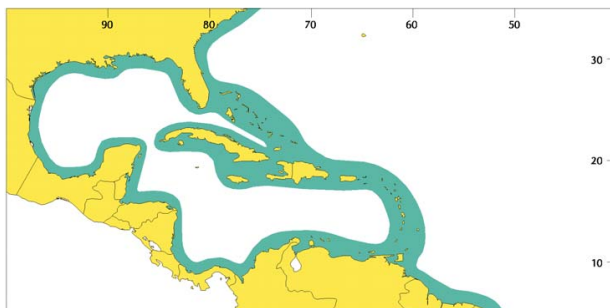
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Speckled swimcrab; Fr - Crabe cyrique; Sp - Jaiba pintada.

Diagnostic characters: Carapace more than twice as broad as long; 9 teeth on broadly arched anterolateral margin (outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine included); **front not so advanced as outer orbital teeth, bearing, between the inner orbital angles, one pair of bicuspid teeth** (resulting from the coalition of 2 separate pairs). Convex dorsal surface finely granulate, **fissures on orbital margin broadly open**; lower surface of carapace hairy; pincers moderate-sized; legs rather short and broad, densely fringed with hairs; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Basal segment of abdomen produced on each side into a strong, sharp, slightly upcurved spine. **Colour: dorsal surface, including pincers, light reddish brown to olive brown covered with many small, rounded white spots, tips of walking legs yellow; colour pattern persisting in alcohol.**

Size: Maximum width: about 141 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Lives in shallow water along ocean sand beaches and is well adapted to life in the waves and shifting sand; burrows in bottom and emerges at night. Presumably feeds on a variety of materials including molluscs, other bottom invertebrates, and some fishes, carrion, and detritus. This species has been found in temperatures ranging from 11 to 28.6°C at 27.5 to 35‰ salinity. In the area ovigerous females have been reported from May to September. Of minor interest to fisheries. This species is not abundant enough to support an organized fishery. It is obtained as an admixture to the main catch (*Farfantepenaeus*), and is considered of excellent flavour. Caught with bottom trawls. Separate statistics not collected.

Distribution: Vineyard Sound, Massachusetts, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic coast of South America down to Uruguay.

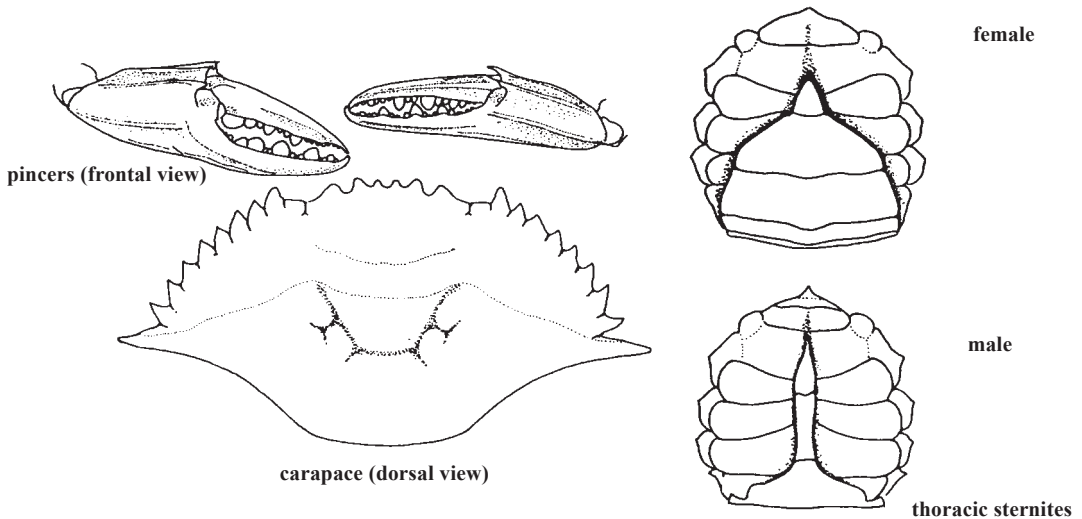


Callinectes bocourti A. Milne Edwards, 1879

KLB

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Blunntooth swimcrab; Fr - Crabe chancre; Sp - Jaiba roma.

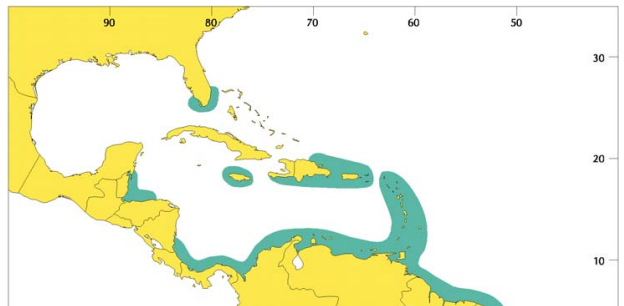


Diagnostic characters: Carapace almost twice as broad as long; 9 teeth on **moderately arched** anterolateral margin, **all except outer orbital teeth and strong lateral spine swept forward, front** (excluding inner orbital angles) **bearing 4 well-developed teeth** (excluding outer orbital angles), **outer pair obtuse**. Marginal slopes of convex dorsal surface smooth and glistening (when wet), central part and transverse lines granulate. Pincers remarkably smooth except for usual spines, obsolescent granules on ridges; fingers of major hand heavily toothed; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Male with T-shaped abdomen reaching nearly to juncture between thoracic sternites 3 and 4; **slender first pleopods sinuously curved, overlapping in 2 places proximally, diverging distally but often exceeding telson, crossed near tips** and armed distally with dorsolateral band of large and small retrogressive spinules (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** variable. Overall cast olive green with prominent reddish markings. Carapace olive, greyish green, greenish chestnut or forest green with variable purplish to red markings, especially on branchial, hepatic, cardiac, and gastric areas, individuals of large sizes are sometimes dark chestnut tinted blackish brown on gastric and metagastric areas, with an oblique spot on subbranchial region; anterolateral teeth olive green with brown to red tints and yellowish white tips. Chelipeds red to dark reddish brown above and whitish below with bluish tints, main colours being sharply separated on outer surface of palm; fingers red to reddish brown, a purplish cast on internal articulation of merus with carpus and this member with chela; tubercles, tips of fingers and spines, on articulations cream; remaining legs reddish, variable. Underparts of body mainly dirty white to purplish red with suffusion of blue marginally.

Size: Maximum width: male 160 mm; female 150 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Lives in shallow brackish waters ranging in salinity from nearly fresh to nearly full marine, on sand or rock-shell bottoms. Tolerant of stagnant, polluted environments. Presumably feeds on a variety of materials including molluscs, other bottom invertebrates, and some fishes, carrion and detritus. Separate statistics for this species are not collected within the area. Caught with bottom trawls, pots, dip nets, and seines. Consumed locally. Marketed fresh or frozen.

Distribution: North Carolina, Florida, and Mississippi (occasional). Jamaica, Belize, Antilles, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil (from Amapá to Santa Catarina).

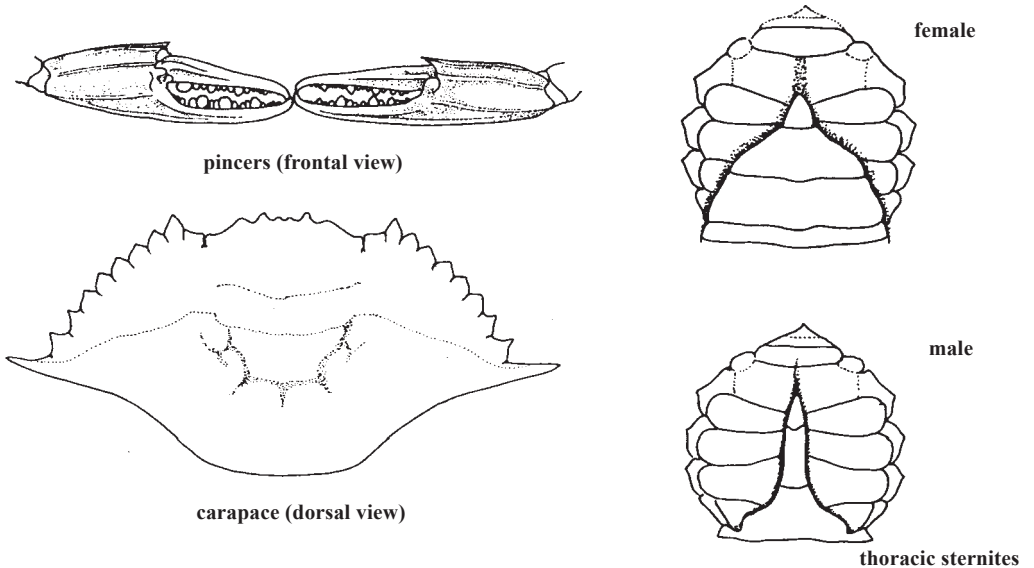


Callinectes danae Smith, 1869

CRZ

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Dana swimcrab; Fr - Crabe lénée; Sp - Cangrejo siri.

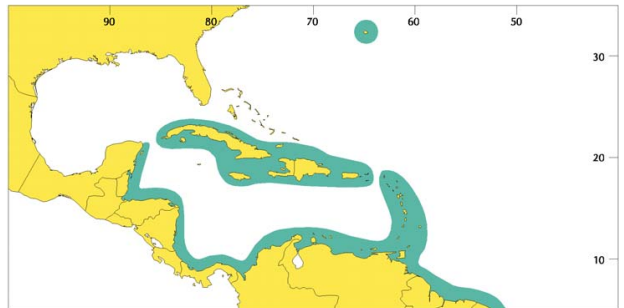


Diagnostic characters: Carapace slightly more than twice as broad as long; 9 teeth on arched anterolateral margin (outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine included) **progressively more acuminate laterally**; outer pair of frontal teeth (excluding inner orbital angles) prominent but **inner pair small**. Much of convex dorsal surface lightly granulate, most prominently so on anterior and elevated areas and in transverse lines; central trapezoidal (metagastric) area short and wide (anterior width about 2 to 2.5 times, posterior width about 1.5 times length). Pincers dissimilar, ridged longitudinally; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Male with T-shaped abdomen reaching slightly beyond suture between thoracic sternites 4 and 5; **first pleopods reaching beyond midpoint of thoracic sternite 6, nearly straight distally except for membranous tips usually bent ventrolaterally**, armed with scattered, minute, mainly dorsal spinules and 2 to 4 subterminal, exceedingly slender, elongate sternomesial spinules (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** variably olive to greyish blue dorsally, spines olive to indigo and white-tipped; pincers with variable blue to purple on upper and inner surfaces, olive to blue externally; legs predominantly dark blue to azure or greenish, underparts white. Some individuals are duller and some have a reticulate pinkish blue cast on the upper surface of chelipeds.

Size: Maximum width: male 139 mm; female 108 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits from muddy estuaries in mangroves and algae-covered broken shell bottoms, to beaches and open ocean depths down to 75 m. Tolerant to salinities ranging from fresh to hypersaline. Presumably feeds on a variety of materials including molluscs, other bottom invertebrates, and some fishes, carrion, and detritus. Separate statistics for this species are not collected within the area. Caught with bottom trawls, pots, beach seines, and dip nets. Marketed fresh. Capture production from 1984 to 1998 totaled 53 125 t. Marketed fresh or frozen. The meat is sold cooked.

Distribution: Bermuda; New Hanover County, North Carolina, near Cape Fear; southern Florida and eastern Yucatán throughout the Caribbean Sea, Colombia, Venezuela, to Brazil (from Paraíba to Rio Grande do Sul).

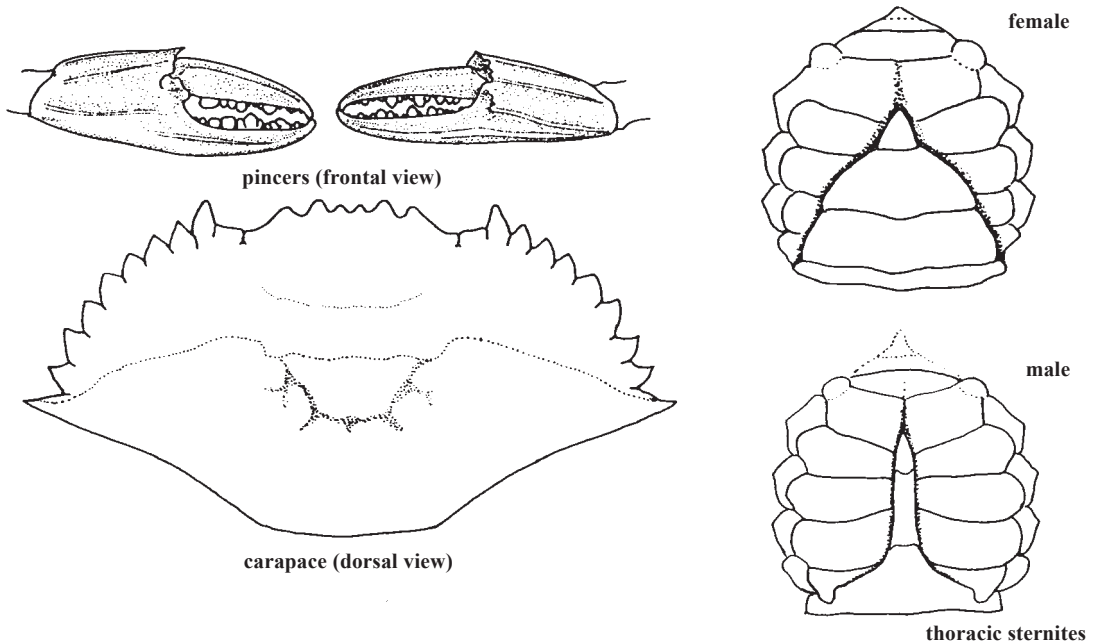


Callinectes exasperatus (Gerstaecker, 1856)

KLE

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: **En** - Rugose swimcrab; **Fr** - Crabe lîré; **Sp** - Jaiba rugosa.

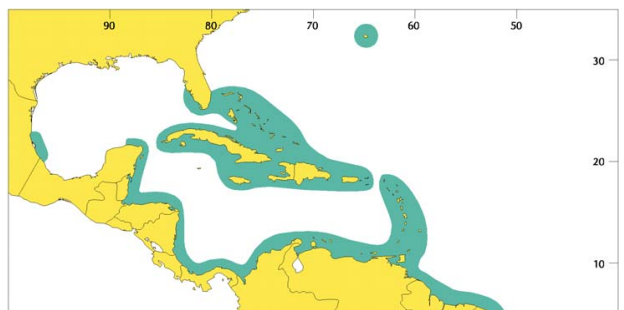


Diagnostic characters: Carapace less than twice as broad as long; 9 stout teeth on **strongly arched anterolateral margin**, all except outer orbital tooth and **short lateral spine usually swept forward**; **front bearing 4 well-developed teeth** (excluding inner orbital angles). Coarse scattered and transverse lines of granules on convex dorsal surface. Pincers robust, ridges and crests coarsely granulate; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Male with T-shaped abdomen reaching posterior quarter of thoracic sternite 4; **first pleopods reaching slightly beyond suture between thoracic sternites 6 and 7, sinuously curved, overlapping proximally, diverging distally to tips curved abruptly inward**, armed distally with scattered minute spinules (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** adult male dorsally purplish red, more accented on proto-, meso-, and metagastric areas and at base of lateral spines and anterolateral teeth; branchial region and anterolateral teeth obscure maroon; dorsal surface of all legs purplish red with intense orange red on articulations; inferior portions of merus, carpus, and fingers of chelipeds intense violet; internal and external portion of chelae as well as remaining ventral aspect of animal white with tints of soft purple.

Size: Maximum width: male 129 mm; female 124 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits estuaries and shallow oceanic littoral, especially in association with mangroves and near river mouths, down to 8 m. Presumably feeds on a variety of materials including molluscs, other bottom invertebrates, some fishes, carrion, and detritus. Separate statistics for this species are not collected within the area. The species is not so abundant as *Callinectes sapidus* and *C. bocourti*. Consumed locally. Caught mainly with hand nets. Marketed fresh.

Distribution: Florida (Duval County, East of Jacksonville); Bermuda; Mexico (Veracruz) to Brazil (from Maranhão to Santa Catarina).

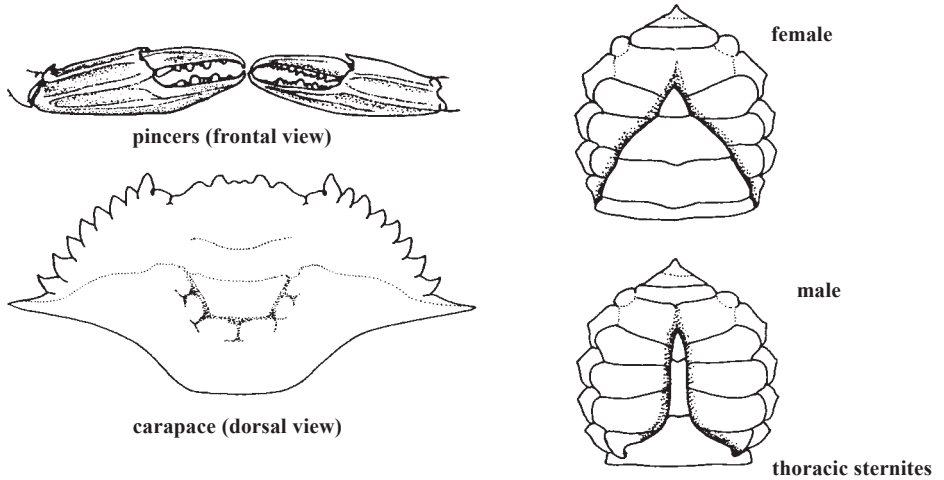


Callinectes larvatus Ordway, 1863

KLL

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: **En** - Masked swimcrab; **Fr** - Crabe draguenelle; **Sp** - Jaiba de máscara.



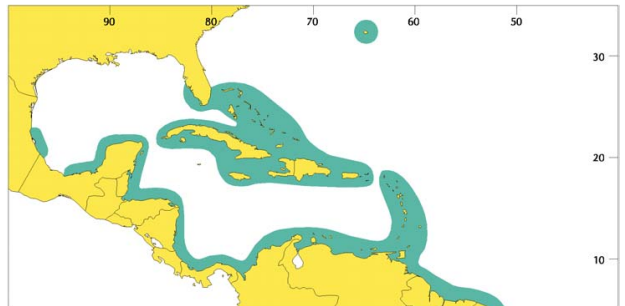
Diagnostic characters: Carapace slightly more than twice as broad as long; 9 teeth on arched anterolateral margin (outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine included), **second to eighth usually trending forward, without shoulders, anterior margins concave except first 2; front** (excluding outer orbital angles) **bearing 4 teeth, inner pair small but definitely formed**. Anterior half of convex dorsal surface coarsely granulate, variably finer and more numerous granules on posterior part and in transverse lines; central trapezoidal (metagastric) area short and wide (anterior width about 2.4 times, posterior width about 1.5 times length). Pincers dissimilar, ridged longitudinally, fingers compressed but broadened dorsoventrally producing pointed spatulate shape; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Male with T-shaped abdomen reaching slightly beyond suture between thoracic sternites 4 and 5, sixth segment nearly parallel-sided but broadened proximally; first pleopods **short, reaching about midlength of sternite 7, approximating each other or occasionally overlapping at level of abrupt curve beyond which short terminal part tapers to rather sharp tip**; armed with minute scattered retrogressive spinules distally (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** carapace brown with areas of bluish black. Chelae brown above; fingers dark on external face except for tips and proximal portion, internal face dark in distal 2/3; dark colour of fingers retained in preservation.

Size: Maximum width: male 142 mm; female 95 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits a variety of shallow environments to depths seldom exceeding 15 m, usually 5 m or less. Found often in intertidal pools. Lives on sand and muddy flats, algae and grass flats, sand beaches, rocky pools, eroded coral bases, oyster bars, shallows at edges of mangroves, and at the surface under lights at night. Presumably feeds on a variety of prey including molluscs, other bottom invertebrates, and some fishes, carrion, and detritus. Of minor fisheries importance as this *Callinectes* is never abundant. Used for food locally when obtained. Separate statistics for this species are not collected within the area. Caught with seines, dip nets, and by hand.

Distribution: North Carolina (Beaufort), Bermuda, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Colombia, Venezuela down to Brazil (from Ceará to São Paulo).

Remarks: This species had long been included in the synonymy of *Callinectes marginatus* (A. Milne Edwards, 1861), until Manning and Holthuis (1981: 92, 93) showed a number of seemingly constant differences which granted recognition of 2 distinct species. The name *Callinectes larvatus* was given to the Western Atlantic species, whereas the name *Callinectes marginatus* was retained for the African species.

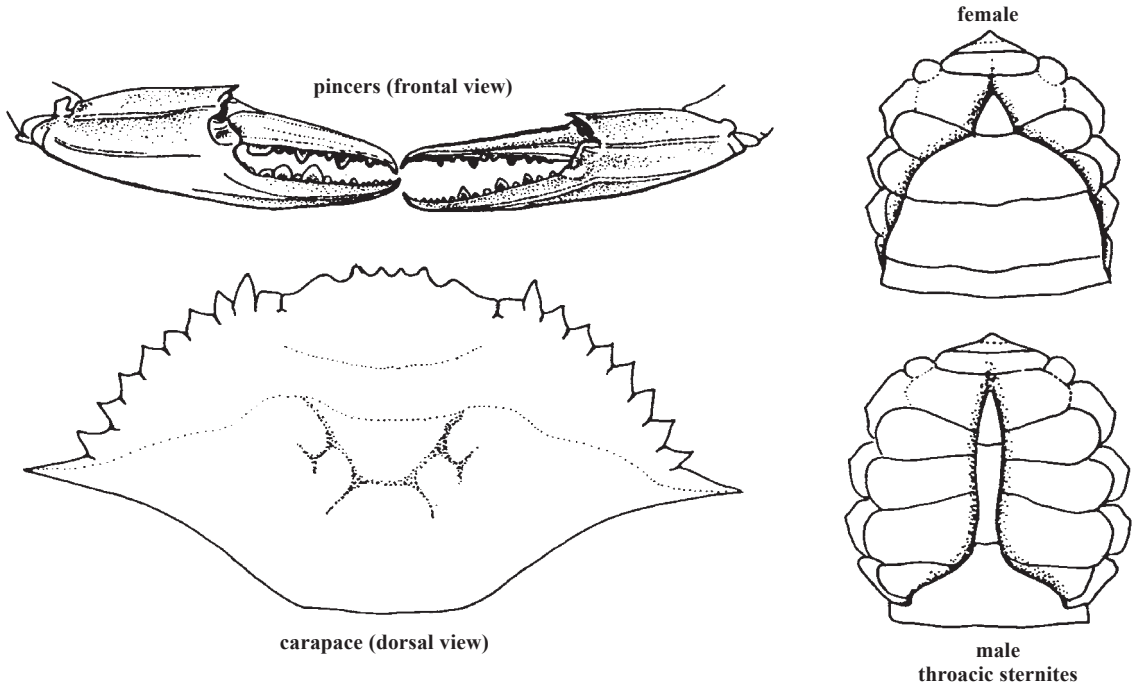


Callinectes maracaiboensis Taissoun, 1969

KLC

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Maracaibo swimcrab; Fr - Crabe d'Alaine; Sp - Jaiba de Maracaibo.

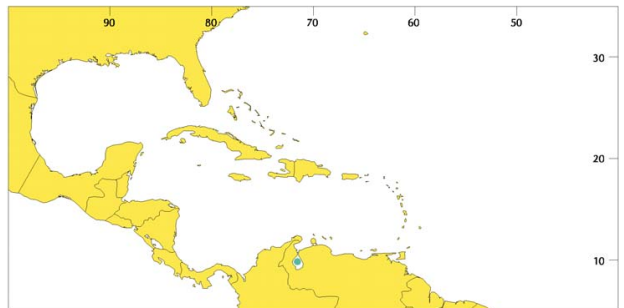


Diagnostic characters: Carapace almost twice as broad as long; 9 teeth on moderately arched anterolateral margin (including outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine) tending to be acuminate especially in outer part of row, with **tips directed outward**; **front** (excluding inner orbital angles) **bearing 4 well-developed teeth, lateral pair moderately acute**. Marginal slopes of convex dorsal surface smooth and glistening (when wet), central part and transverse lines variably granulate. Pincers granulate on ridges, fingers of major hand heavily toothed; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Male with T-shaped abdomen reaching to anterior 1/4 of thoracic sternite 4; **slender first pleopods sinuously curved, overlapping in 2 places proximally, diverging distally then recurving to termination near midline and tip of telson**, armed distally with dorsolateral band of large and small retrogressive spinules (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** carapace olive green with variable tints of brown and blue; pincers similar dorsally, fingers intense blue on internal side, legs cream proximally and blue distally, articulations and spines of legs orange and blue; underparts cream and light yellow with suffusion of light blue.

Size: Maximum width: male 160 mm; female 120 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits brackish to occasionally fresh waters containing much silt and decomposing organic material, usually below 16‰ salinity, on sandy and muddy bottoms and among roots of mangroves. Of minor interest to fisheries. Fishing grounds are located in the Lake Maracaibo and Bay of Tablazo (Venezuela). Separate statistics are not reported for this species. Caught with traps. Marketed fresh.

Distribution: Confined so far as known, to the Lake Maracaibo estuarine system, but probably wide spread.

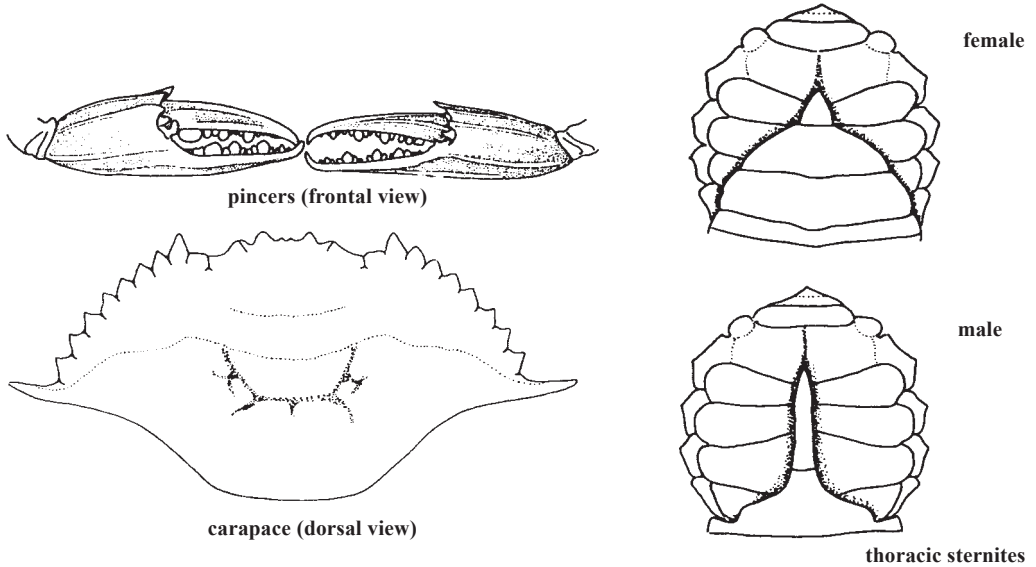


Callinectes ornatus Ordway, 1863

KLO

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Shelligs crab; Fr - Crabe grise; Sp - Jaiba gris.

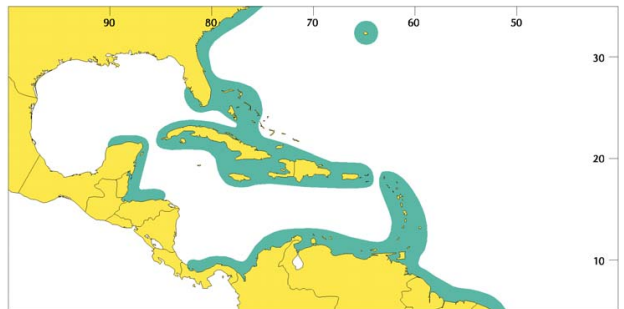


Diagnostic characters: Carapace slightly more than twice as broad as long; 9 teeth on arched anterolateral margin (outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine included) **progressively more acuminate laterally**; outer pair of frontal teeth (excluding inner orbital angles) prominent but **inner pair small, often almost completely rudimentary**. Much of convex dorsal surface lightly granulate, most prominently so on anterior and elevated areas and in transverse lines; central trapezoidal (metagastric) area short and wide (anterior width about 2.8 times, posterior width about 1.75 times length). Pincers dissimilar, ridged longitudinally; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Male with T-shaped **abdomen** reaching slightly beyond suture between thoracic sternites 4 and 5, usually with **distal parts recessed below plane of sternum in retracted position**. **First pleopods overlapping proximally, nearly straight distally, terminating in usually lanceolate membranous tip** near level of stuture between thoracic sternites 6 and 7, armed subterminally with short retrogressive spinules easily visible at low magnification. **Colour:** variable. Light greyish green, olive, pinkish, or brown, spines maroon to blue or white, white-tipped; pincers with outer face white, inner surface dark blue; varying transverse light-dark bands on paddles, other legs tinted blue; underparts whitish to grey. Albinistic individuals occur where substrates are light coloured. Williams (1984) gives a detailed description of the colour variations in this species.

Size: Maximum width: male 130 mm; female 110 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Mostly tropical inhabiting mainly sandy or muddy bottoms, or shell and sponge covered bottoms (young crabs). Found in depths as great as 75 m. Tolerant of a broad range of salinity from 0 to 50‰ and temperatures of 18 to 31°C. May be obtained in bays and river mouths or even in fresh water, but it is abundant in waters of relatively high salinities. Presumably feeds on a variety of prey including molluscs, other bottom invertebrates, and some fishes, carrion, and detritus. Separate statistics not collected within the area. Consumed locally when obtained. Caught with bottom trawls, seines, pots, fish traps, and dip nets. Marketed fresh.

Distribution: Bermuda; Virginia, North and South Carolina through southeastern Florida; Gulf of Mexico, including northwestern Yucatán to Brazil (from Amapá to Rio Grande do Sul).

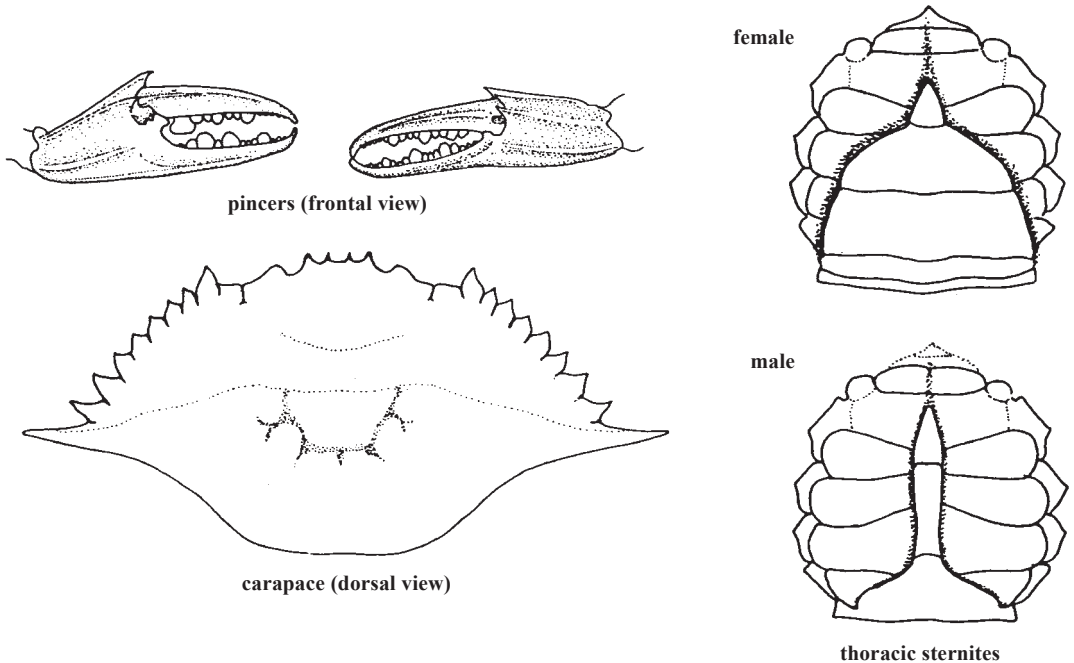


Callinectes rathbunae Contreras, 1930

KLT

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: **En** - Sharptooth swimcrab; **Fr** - Crabe balleresse; **Sp** - Jaiba de puntas.

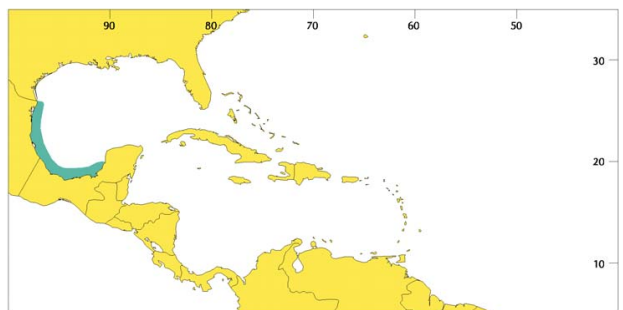


Diagnostic characters: Carapace twice as broad as long; 9 teeth on moderately arched anterolateral margin (including outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine) **acuminate with edges variably granulate; front** (excluding inner orbital angles) **bearing 4 acuminate teeth, inner pair narrower than outer**. Marginal slopes of convex dorsal surface smooth and glistening (when wet), central part lightly and evenly granulate, transverse lines prominent. Pincers with sharp granulate ridges, fingers of major hand heavily toothed but not gaping; fifth leg flattened in form of paddles. Male with T-shaped abdomen reaching nearly to juncture between thoracic sternites 3 and 4; **slender first pleopods sinuously curved, overlapping in proximal half, diverging distally then recurving gradually to termination near midline and tip of telson**, armed distally with dorsolateral narrow band of large and small sharp retrogressive spinules (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** green and blue with tints of red, orange, and purple; underparts white.

Size: Maximum width: male 140 mm; female 150 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Lives in estuarine waters of ditches, lagoons, and river mouths. Presumably feeds on a variety of prey including molluscs, other bottom invertebrates, and some fishes, carrion, and detritus. Minor interest to fisheries. Separate statistics are not collected within the area. Caught with hand nets. Marketed fresh.

Distribution: Western Gulf of Mexico.

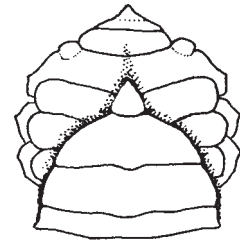
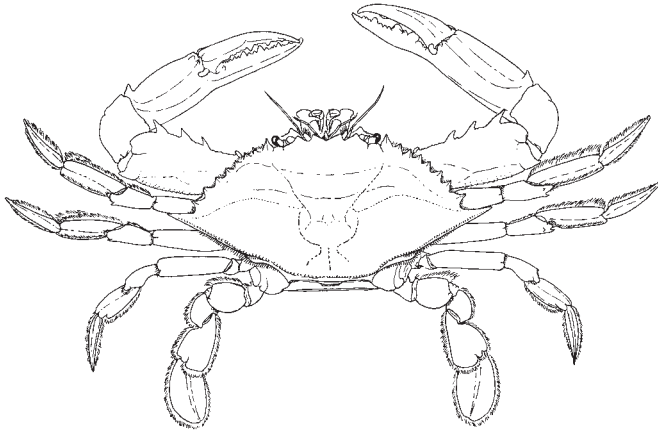


Callinectes sapidus Rathbun, 1896

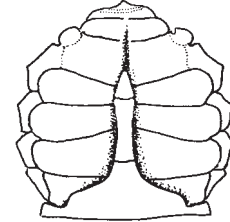
CRB

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Blue crab; Fr - Crabe bleu; Sp - Cangrejo azul.



female



male

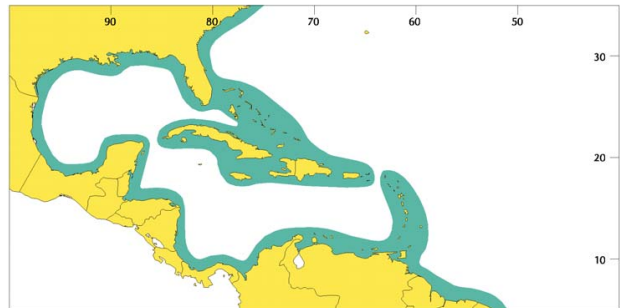
thoracic sternites

Diagnostic characters: Carapace more than twice as broad as long; **9 blunt to acuminate teeth** (outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine included) on arched anterolateral margin; **front** (excluding inner orbital angles) **bearing 2 obtuse to acuminate, broadly triangular teeth with often sinuous inner margins longer than outer margins**. Much of convex dorsal surface smooth, but scattered and transverse lines of fine granules; sculpture of regions near centre varying from low and smooth to rather sharply raised relief with crowded granules; pincers strong, dissimilar, and ridged longitudinally; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Males with T-shaped abdomen reaching level of thoracic sternite 4; slender **first pleopods with membranous tip reaching beyond suture between thoracic sternites 4 and 5**; sinuously curved, overlapping proximally and armed distally with a row of large and small retrogressive spinules (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** greyish, bluish, or brownish green of varying shades and tints dorsally on carapace and chelipeds; spines may have reddish tints, tubercles at articulations of legs orange, and legs varying blue and white with traces of red or brownish green. Males with propodi of chelae blue on inner and white on outer surfaces, fingers blue on inner and white on outer surfaces and tipped with red. Mature females with orange fingers on chelae tipped with purple. Underparts off-white with tints of yellow and pink. Colour variations associated with sexual dimorphism and molt cycle are known.

Size: Maximum width: 209 mm, exceptionally 227 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A coastal crab inhabiting a variety of bottoms in fresh water, estuaries, and shallow marine waters usually down to 35 m, occasionally 90 m depth. Hatching occurs in mouths of estuaries and shallow marine waters, development of larvae progresses in the ocean, followed by migration of megalopae and young crabs back into estuarine waters to mature into adults. Feeds on a variety of prey including oysters, clams, other bottom invertebrates, fishes, some vascular plant material and detritus, and carrion. Of major interest to fisheries. Traditionally, however, the seat of this fishery is in Area 21 (mostly Chesapeake Bay). In Area 31 from 1984 to 1998, 750 449 t of blue crab were caught (mean capture production was 50 029 t/year). Caught with pots, trotlines, bottom trawls, fyke nets, dip nets, scrapes, and dredges. Marketed fresh.

Distribution: Western Atlantic: Nova Scotia, Maine, and northern Massachusetts to Argentina, including Bermuda and the Antilles. Introduced in Europe (Denmark, Netherlands and adjacent North Sea, France, Golfo di Genova; northern Adriatic; Aegean, western Black, and eastern Mediterranean Seas. Introduced also in Japan. (found twice); now rather abundant in parts of northern and eastern Mediterranean Sea and also in Japan.

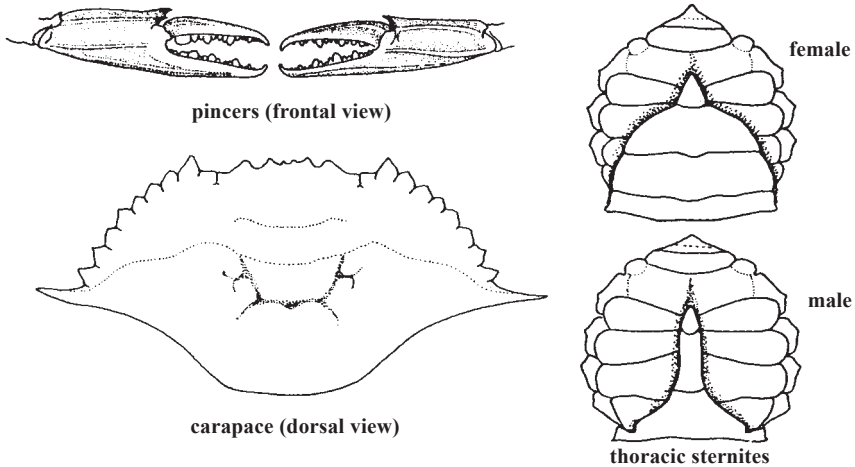


Callinectes similis Williams, 1966

KLS

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Lesser blue crab; Fr - Crabe ciarlatan; Sp - Jaiba azul menor.



Diagnostic characters: Carapace more than twice as broad as long; **9 blunt teeth** (outer orbital tooth and strong lateral spine included) on arched anterolateral margin; **front bearing 4 teeth** (excluding inner orbital angles), **inner pair small but definitely formed**. Much of convex dorsal surface lightly and uniformly granulate in addition to transverse lines of fine granulations; central trapezoidal (metagastric) area short and wide (anterior width about 2.75 times, posterior width about 1.7 times length). Pincers dissimilar, with very fine granules on longitudinal ridges; fifth legs flattened in form of paddles. Male with sixth (penultimate) segment of T-shaped abdomen broader than telson, **flush with sternum in retracted position**; **first pleopods well separated and reaching anteriorly 2/3 length of thoracic sternite 7 or beyond, distal part slender, extending straight to tips curved slightly inward**, armed with minute retrogressive spinules (magnifying glass required). **Colour:** carapace green dorsally, irregular areas of iridescence at bases of and between anterolateral teeth, and on posterior and posterolateral borders. Chelipeds and portions of legs similar in colour or more tannish green dorsally, with iridescent areas on outer and upper edges of carpus and hands; chelae white on outer surface, blue to fuchsia on inner surface, with fuchsia on tips of fingers and teeth of opposed edges. Lateral spines and some anterolateral teeth as well as spines on chelipeds white-tipped. Walking legs grading from fuchsia distally through violet blue to light blue mottled with white proximally, pubescence on legs beige. Swimming legs variably mottled with white; all legs with stellate fuchsia markings at articulations. Underparts white and blue.

Size: Maximum width: male 122 mm; female 95 mm. An individual has been reported with carapace width of 171 mm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits marine littoral water, seldom in estuaries. It has been found in salinities ranging from 24.9 to 37.4‰ and temperatures between 13 and 29°C, at depths down to 92 m, recorded occasionally to 379 m. Usually associated with *Callinectes sapidus*, often in large numbers. Gut content analysis revealed several groups of food items in the diet: plant fragments, remains of fish, polychaetes, crustaceans (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus* and *Portunus gibbesii*), micromolluscs (*Mulinia lateralis*), and detritus. Considered a potential source for human consumption in the Gulf of Mexico. Separate statistics are not collected for this species. Caught with bottom trawls, beach seines, and pots. Usually culled from catches because of small size, but marketed fresh if at all.

Distribution: Off Delaware Bay to Key West, Florida; northeastern Florida around Gulf of Mexico to off Campeche, Yucatán; Isla Providencia, Colombia; northern Jamaica.

