

## **CRUSTACEAN**

**There are 44,000 different species of Crustaceans, most of them live in the sea (marine) but some are freshwater and others live on land**

- **Crustaceans don't have a skeleton; their hard exoskeleton protects their body and supports them**
- **The most popular Crustaceans are from the Decapod group. Decapod means 'ten legs' and species from this group include the Lobster, Prawn, Crabs and Crayfish**
- **Most crustaceans live in the sea; lobsters, crabs, shrimps, barnacles and hermit crabs are all crustaceans.**
- **Crustaceans have 2 pairs of antennae**

## GHOST CRAB



**Other names:** Sand crab, mole crab, white crab

**Scientific name:** *Ocypode quadrata*

**Conservation status:** N/A

**Habitat:** sandy beaches, back shores in burrows

**Description:** It has got a pale body color similar to the color of sand. They are about 5 cm (2.0 in) wide at maturity. Have five pairs of hairy legs and have large black eyes supported on stalks which can swivel to give them 360° vision

**Fun facts:**

- Can hold oxygen in their sacs for six weeks
- Contrary to what you might think, these crabs cannot swim in water but most females can stay afloat
- It's the fastest crab amongst all its crustacean brothers.

## AFRICAN RAINBOW CRAB



**Other names:** Moon crab, Nigerian moon crab patriot crab

**Scientific name:** *Cardisoma armatum*

**Conservation status:** Not listed

**Habitat:** river banks and coastal areas in burrows.

**Description:** This crab is a brightly coloured. They have a blue to purple carapace and orange to red legs. The males are more colourful compared to the females. They usually reach to size of 15-20cm across the carapace; average size is smaller at around 10cm. Their average lifespan is two to three years.

**Fun facts:**

- They live on land but mostly near water, not big enough to drown them but enough to crawl out of as these crabs do not swim.
- They are very aggressive in nature and can eat just about everything. These omnivores will have no issues feeding on vegetation, carrion or even small crabs, reptiles and fish
- They are mostly nocturnal and can dig deep as 3 feet.



## LAND CRAB



**Other names:** blue land crab

**Scientific name:** *Cardisoma guanhumi*

**Conservation status:** Not listed

**Habitat:**

**Description:** This species of land crab varies in colour from dark blue to brown or pale grey, and may grow to 11cm in width. The males possess larger claws that grow up to 15cm

**Fun fact**

**It is a slow-growing species compared to most other crabs**

## BLUE CRAB



**Scientific name:** *Callinectes sapidus*

**Other names:** Blue crab, atlantic blue crab

**Description:** they are known to be strong swimmers due largely to their fifth pair of legs which are shaped like paddles. They have striking spots with their bright blue claws and olive color carapace. The claws on the adult female are tipped with red.

**Habitat:** Estuaries and salt marshes

**Fun Fact:**

- The blue crab's scientific name means "beautiful savory swimmer."
- It is a known delicacy

**Conservation Status:** Not listed