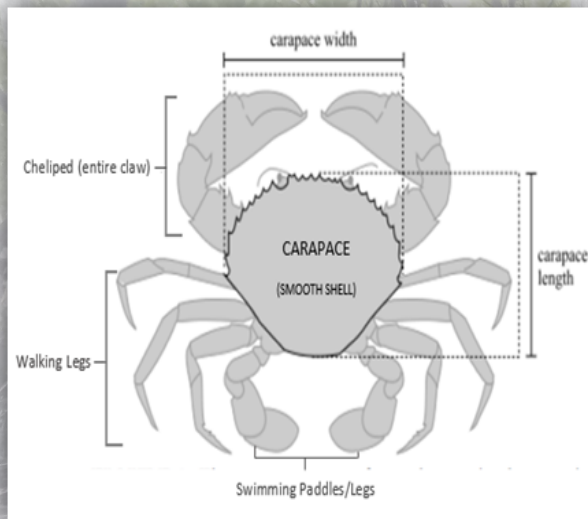


Biological Information on Mud Crabs

Mud Crabs are dark brown to green coloured crabs that live in muddy sheltered habitats which belong to the portunidae family of crabs. Characteristically they have a broad smooth shell called a carapace, six walking legs, two chelipeds (claws) and two flattened legs for swimming

Mud Crab Morphological Features



WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

Mud Crabs are selective to coastal areas/habitats that contain mangroves. They prefer muddy sheltered environments in estuaries where they are able to dig out holes with their sharp claws and burrow inside—it acts as a home and a protects them from predators.

Mud Crabs can also be found all the way out in seagrass areas but in close proximity to mangroves.

HABITAT

Mangrove Rainforest



Mud Crab Burrowed in Mud



WHAT DO THEY FEED ON?

They feed on Immobile or slow-moving animals such as bivalve shells, marine worms, molluscs and even on small crabs . They also eat plant material. Mud crabs come out from their burrows at night to forage for food.

LIFE CYCLE OF MUD CRAB

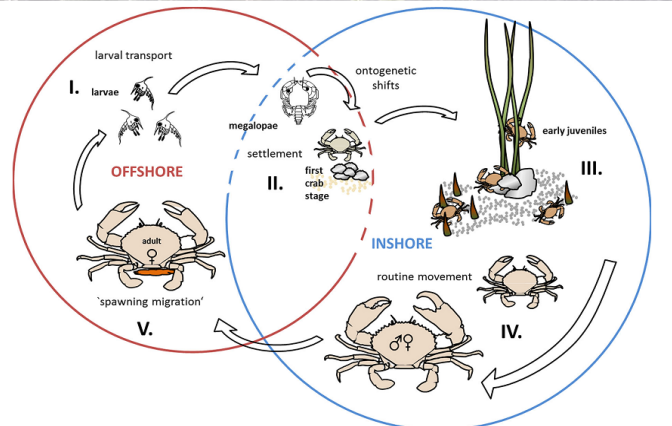


Illustration of Mud Crab Life Cycle (2015). Retrieved from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10750-015-2393->

Mud Crabs Mate in their natural habitat in mangrove forest. Berried (carrying eggs) females migrate offshore, as far as 50km, to spawn (release eggs) in the ocean, then swim back to their habitat. The larvae travels with tides and currents back into Intertidal shores as they develop and settle in their natural habitat as young crabs, until they mature.

SPECIES PROFILE & IDENTIFICATION

The four main species harvested in PNG



SCYLLA SERRATA
MUD CRAB



SCYLLA OLIVACEA
ORANGE MUD CRAB

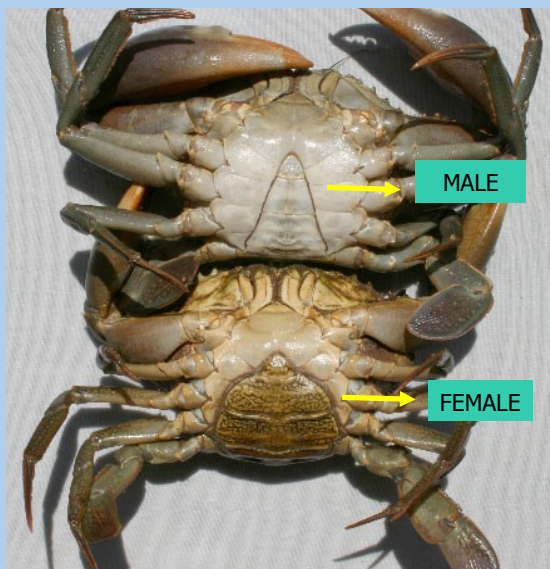


SCYLLA PARAMAMOSAIN
GREEN MUD CRAB



SCYLLA TRANQUABARIUS
PURPLE MUD CRAB

Identifying Mud Crabs



Cumming, G. (n.d). Photo of Mud Crab Species ID.
Retrieved from https://www.gpcl.com.au/big6/Documents/Fact%20Sheet_MudCrabs.pdf

It is quite simple to tell the gender of the mud crab by looking at the abdominal area:

**MALES HAVE A
“V-SHAPED” ABDOMEN”**

**FEMALES HAVE A
“U-SHAPED” ABDOMEN”**

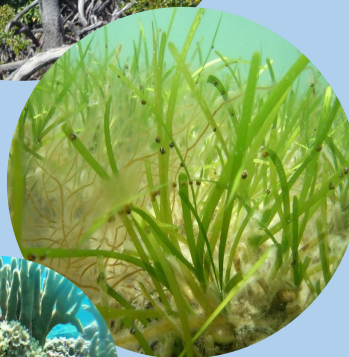
Important Notice:

PROTECTION OF MUD CRAB HABITATS

In order for the life cycle of mud crabs to occur, it is important to protect habitats that are part of this life cycle process.

Habitats include:

1. Mangrove forests
2. Seagrass areas (inter-tidal zone)
3. Coral reefs



**NATIONAL
FISHERIES
AUTHORITY**

Information on Mud Crabs

Papua New Guinea



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 2016, PORT MORESBY

NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT

11TH FLOOR, KINA TOWER, DOWNTOWN