

Chinese mitten crab

Eriocheir sinensis

This crab species arrived in Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century. It can compete with native species. Adults can be found in fresh and brackish waters. The burrowing nature can cause damage to river banks and draining systems.



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The main characteristic distinguishing this species (essentially visible in estuaries) is the dense patch of hairs (fur-like) it has on the claws. The carapace is 1 to 4 in (3 to 10 cm) wide and the legs are about twice as long. Juveniles lack fur on claws



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