

Isle of Man

Non Native Marine Invasive Species

Alert

Chinese Mitten Crab

Scientific name: *Eriocheir sinensis*

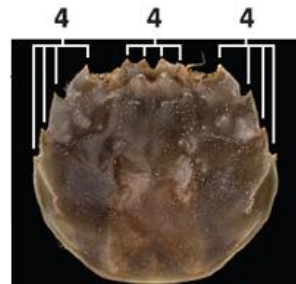
Native to: China

Habitat: Tidal streams and rivers. Adults migrate to the sea to breed.

Key ID Features: The Chinese mitten crab was first recorded from the River Thames in 1935 having been discharged from the ballast tanks of ships. It is now well-established in other major UK rivers. Chinese mitten crabs prefer to moult in freshwater but are unable to lay eggs at low salinities. Adults therefore migrate down rivers in the autumn to gather in estuaries to breed. Once eggs hatch in spring, juveniles and adults migrate back up the river. They are also able to cross dry land and have been found in isolated freshwater ponds. Its ability to travel large distances up river systems and cross dry land means that all waterbodies in Britain have the potential to be invaded. Chinese mitten crabs burrow into river banks, affecting their integrity and so can cause considerable damage. It has been placed on the IUCN 100 of the world's worst alien species list. Chinese mitten crabs are listed and, as such, it is an offence to release or allow the escape of this species into the wild.



Dense brown 'fur' on the white-tipped claw



4+4+4 pattern of teeth around shell

If you see this species please record the following details:

- Location of species
- Date and time of sighting
- Depth of water
- Photographs taken ?

with your name and contact details, and report to Tony Glen (searchiom@hotmail.com) or Philippa Tomlinson (philippa.tomlinson@gov.im).

