

Callinectes marginatus

Callinectes marginatus, known as the “sharp-tooth swim-crab” or “marbled swimcrab”, is a species of swimming crab in the genus *Callinectes*.

1 Description

Its carapace bears nine spines behind each eye, the last of which is around twice the length of the previous one, making the whole carapace around 10 centimetres (3.9 in) wide.^[2]

2 Distribution and ecology

Although the name *Callinectes marginatus* was used by Mary Rathbun and others to also cover animals now referred to the species *C. larvatus* and *C. diacanthus*, *C. marginatus* is now used only for a species found from the Cape Verde Islands and Nouadhibou, Mauritania to Angola.^[3]

C. marginatus appears to be entirely marine, unlike some of its congeners, although there are records from the estuaries of the Congo River and the Hwini River.^[3] The crabs dig holes around 30 cm (12 in) wide in mudflats.^[4]

3 References

- [1] Peter Davie & Charles Fransen (2010). "*Callinectes marginatus* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1861)". World Register of Marine Species. Retrieved June 14, 2011.
- [2] Wolfgang Schneider (1990). “Portunidae: Swimming Crabs”. *Field Guide to the Commercial Marine Resources of the Gulf of Guinea* (PDF). Food and Agriculture Organization. pp. 186–188.
- [3] Raymond B. Manning & Lipke B. Holthuis (1981). “West African Brachyuran Crabs (Crustacea: Decapoda)”. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology* **306**: 1–379. doi:10.5479/si.00810282.306.
- [4] B. B. P. A. van der Laan & Wim J. Wolff (2006). “Circular pools in the seagrass beds of the Banc d’Arguin, Mauritania, and their possible origin” (PDF). *Aquatic Botany* **84**: 93–100. doi:10.1016/j.aquabot.2005.07.009.

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4.1 Text

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