



Where are they found?

They are found in estuaries and their reach extends out to sea grass areas but within close range to mangroves.



Mangrove Rainforest

Biological Information on Mud Crabs

What do they eat?

They feed on bivalve shells, marine worms, and small crabs called gastropods.

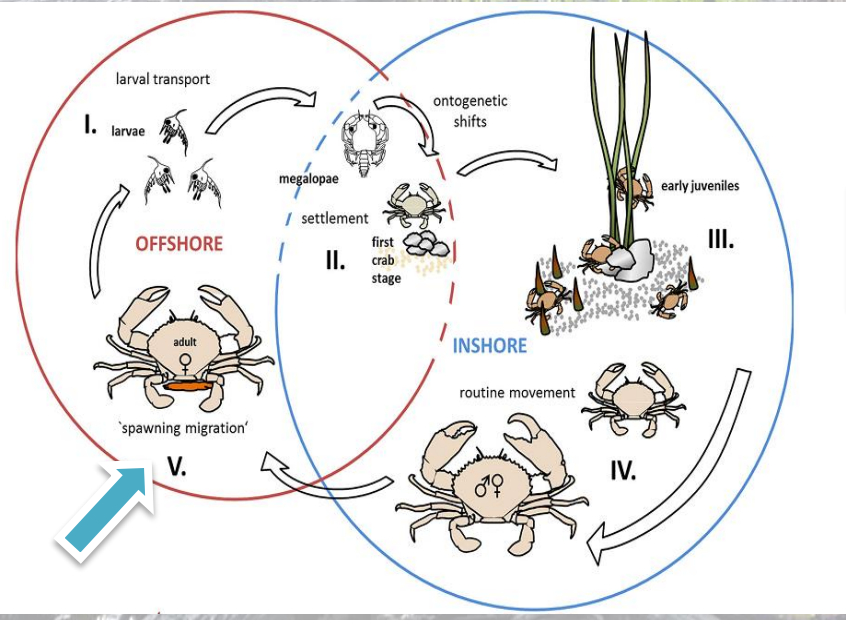


Mud Crabs are dark brown to green coloured crabs that live in muddy sheltered habitats which belong to the portunidae family of crabs. Characteristically they have a broad smooth shell called a carapace, six walking legs, two chelipeds (claw) and two flattened legs for swimming

Mud Crabs Mate in their natural habitat in mangrove forest.

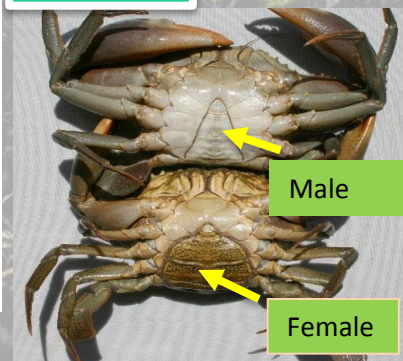
Berried (carrying eggs) females migrate offshore, as far as 50km, to spawn (release eggs) in the ocean, then swim back to their habitat.

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.



Crab Stages (carapace width):
 1. Larvae
 2. Juvenile (20-80mm)
 3. Sub adult (80-150mm)
 4. Adult: 150mm +

Male or Female?



SOME FACTS:

- The claw of an adult male crab can make up around 45% of total body weight
- Mud Crabs can reach up to 1.5kg of weight in PNG

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