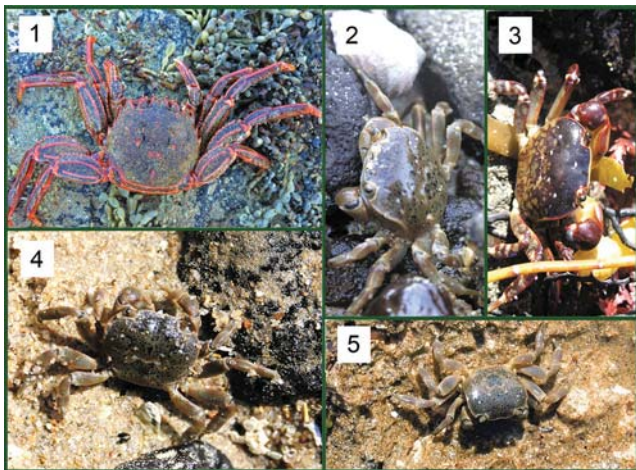


Shore Crabs

(Class: Malacostraca - Order: Decapoda - Family: Grapsidae)



Shore crabs, also known as *grapsid* crabs, gain protection from predators and drying out at low tide by taking cover under rocks. *Grapsids* are the most abundant crabs found in intertidal areas where loose rocks provide shelter. They are generally scavengers and feed on food materials left by the retreating tide.

	Name	Description
1	<i>Plagusia chabrus</i> Red Notched Crab	A large very active reddish crab with sharp points on its legs to help it cling to rocks in the wave zone. Body width to 70 mm.
2 5	<i>Paragrapsus quadridentatus</i> Common shore crab	Recognised by its fawn coloured shell and rectangular body this crab has a body width to 30 mm.
3	<i>Cyclograpsus granulatus</i> Purple Mottled Shore Crab	Common beneath basalt boulders this common grapsid has a distinctive purple colour and body width to 35 mm.
4	<i>Cyclograpsus audouinii</i> Smooth shore crab	Tufts of hairs at the base of the legs distinguish this crab from the previous species - if you care to look! Width to 40 mm.