

Classification Sand Crab

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Subphylum: Crustacea
Class: Malacostraca
Order: Decapoda
Family: Portunidae
Species: *Ovalipes australiensis*
Common Names: Sand Crab

Body

Body Parts: 2, cephalothorax & abdomen
The abdomen is held bent forward and hidden beneath the cephalothorax.

Legs: 10 legs, first pair with claws, last pair of legs turned to paddles for swimming.

Eyes: Stalked eyes

Mouthparts: 3 pairs of mouthparts & 3 pairs of modified legs which help to crush, tear and chew food

Others

Life History

Habitat: Sand Crabs live in shallow coastal waters with a sandy seafloor. They are good swimmers.

Life Cycle: The female will lay her eggs into the brood pouch that is formed by her bent abdomen and cephalothorax. When the small larvae hatch from the eggs, the female releases them into the water.

Diet: Most crabs are scavengers. This means that they eat all kinds of food from small prey to dead animals as well as live and rotting plant material.

Eye Spots: The two red spots on the carapace imitate eyes and are there to frighten predators who might like to catch Sand Crabs.

Escape: Sand Crabs can dig quickly into the sand if threatened.

