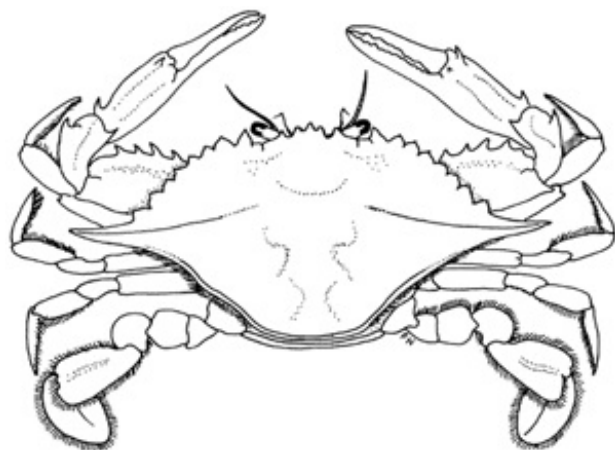




Species Fact Sheets

Portunus trituberculatus (Miers, 1876)



Portunus trituberculatus: [\(click for more\)](#)



Portunus trituberculatus: [\(click for more\)](#)

Synonyms

- *Portunus pelagicus* Rathbun, 1902
- *Neptunus trituberculatus* Miers, 1876, (original description).
- *Portunus trituberculatus* Rathbun, 1902

FAO Names

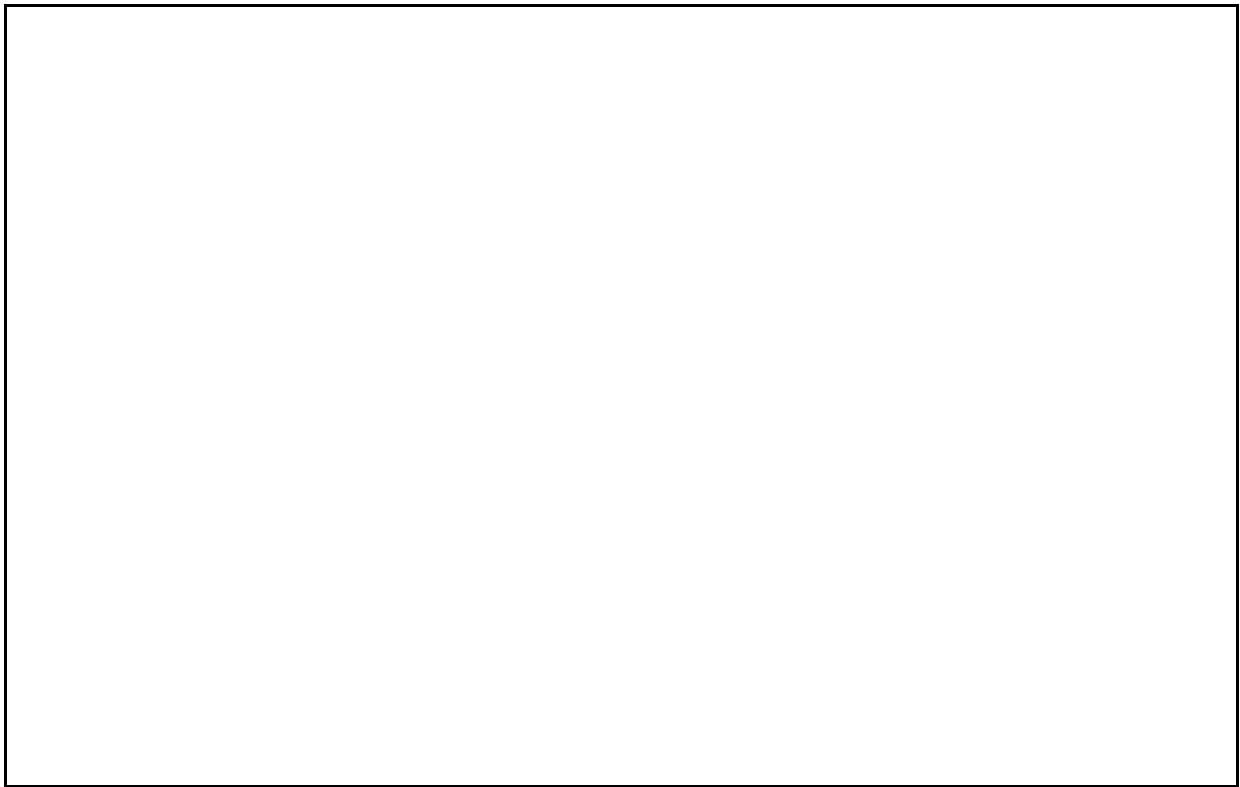
En - Gazami crab, Fr - Crabe gazami, Sp - Jaiba gazami.

3Alpha Code: GAZ Taxonomic Code: 2311100404

Diagnostic Features

Carapace rough to granulose with regions discernible. Front with 3 acutely triangular teeth with the central projected slightly forwards of the lateral ones; 9 teeth on each anterolateral margin, the most external one much larger than the preceding. Chelipeds elongate: larger chelae with conical tooth at the base of fingers; 4 spines on the inner margin of the merus. Legs laterally flattened to varying degrees, last 2 segments of last pair paddle-like. Carapace colour dull green to brown.

Geographical Distribution



**Launch the Aquatic Species Distribution
map viewer**

Indic and West Pacific Oceans: Southeast and East Asia (from Japan, Korea, China and Formosa and the Bay of Bengala), to the West, North and East of Australia.

Habitat and Biology

Habiting sandy and sand-muddy depths in shallow waters to 50 m depth.

Size

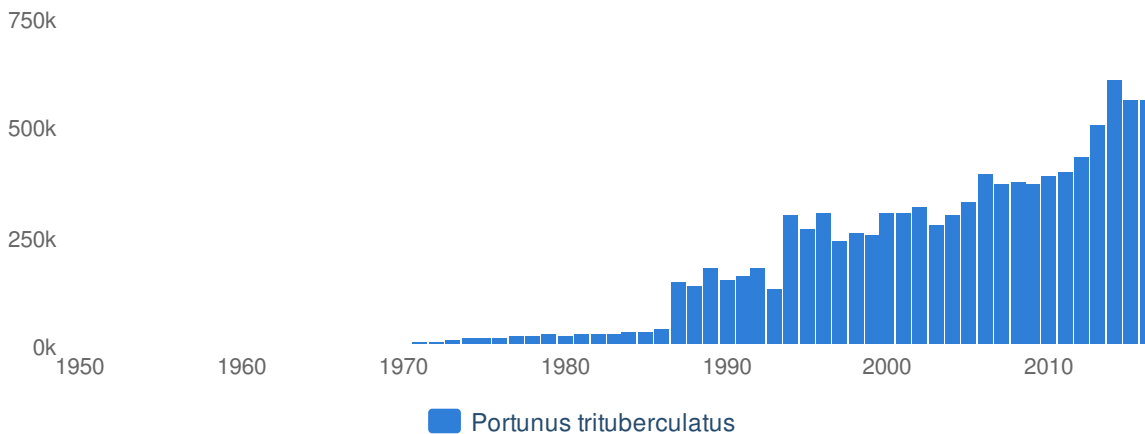
Maximum carapace width 15 cm (males). A male of 149 mm cw has a carapace length of 70 mm.

Interest to Fisheries

Caught mainly by **trawling**. It is an important commercial species in Japan, where it is a common edible crab, and it is collected in large numbers in some areas. The total catch reported for this species to FAO for 1999 was 284 851 t. The countries with the largest catches were China (270 280 t) and Korea, Republic of (11 819 t).

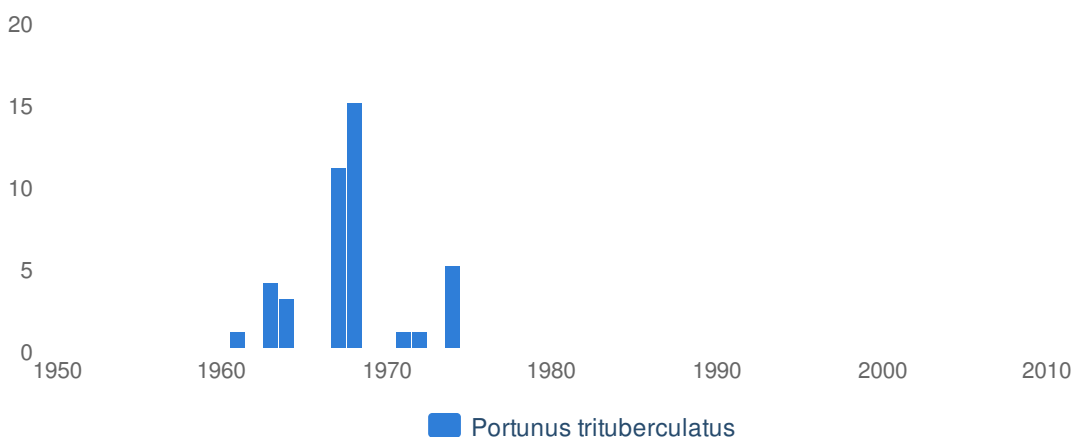
Global Capture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: [FAO FishStat](#)



Global Aquaculture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: [FAO FishStat](#)



Local Names

English : Horse crab .

Japanese : Gazami , Watarigani .

Remarks

The species is similar to *Portunus pelagicus* in its general appearance. *P. trituberculatus* is, however, easily distinguished from *P. pelagicus* because it have 3 frontal teeth (4 in *P. pelagicus*) and it have 4 spines in the merus of chelipeds (3 in *P. pelagicus*). *Portunus sanguinolentus* (Herbst, 1783) inhabit the same area but it is easily distinguished by their 3 prominent maroon to red spots on posterior 1/3 of carapace.

Bibliography

Carpenter, K.E. and V.H. Niem (eds.). 1998 Species identification guide for fishery purposes. The living marine resources of the Western Central Pacific. vol. 2: cephalopods, crustaceans, holothuroideans and sharks. Rome. F.A.O.

Sakai, T. 1976 Crabs of Japan and the adjacent seas. Kodansha Ltd. Tokyo. 773 p.

