Key features

1. Hairy “mittens” with white tips on front claws
2. Distinctive notches between the eyes
3. Four spines on each side of the carapace
4. Carapace 0.5-10 cm wide but generally >3 cm
5. Light brown to olive-green carapace

Habitat
- Above high tide to subtidal
- Burrows in sand, mud, silt or clay
- Freshwater, brackish, estuarine and marine waters
- Prefers polluted or nutrient-enriched waters

Impact
- Can form dense colonies
- Disrupts natural ecological balance
- Accumulates toxins
- Aggressive, highly effective predator
- Displaces native and fisheries species
- Damages fishing nets and catches
- Burrowing weakens and collapses river/estuary banks
- Can carry a liver fluke that harms humans

If found anywhere in New Zealand, immediately call 0800 80 99 66
How to differentiate *Eriocheir sinensis* from:

**Austrohelice crassa**
TUNNELLING MUD CRAB

1. *A. crassa* has large, rounded claws — not furry or white-tipped
2. *A. crassa* is much smaller — carapace width 4 cm max and distinctly oblong/square-shaped
3. *A. crassa* has no spines on the front edge of the carapace

**Hemigrapsus crenulatus**
Hairy-Handed Crab

1. *H. crenulatus* claws are only slightly hairy and the hairs are on the inner side only
2. *H. crenulatus* is a much smaller crab — carapace width less than 4 cm
3. *H. crenulatus* has no spines on the front edge of the carapace

**Hemiplax hirtipes**
STALK-EYED MUD CRAB

1. *Hemiplax* claws are small, fringed with hairs and with long slender fingers
2. *Hemiplax* has eyes on long stalks
3. *Hemiplax* is a much smaller crab — carapace width less than 3 cm

To report suspected marine pests or diseases call 0800 80 99 66