

## Alert !

Report sightings of this species:

- online: <https://irecord.org.uk/>
- by email: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)
- or scan QR code to report a sighting:



# Marbled crayfish

**Scientific name:** *Procambarus virginalis*

**Also known as:** Marmokrebs, *P. fallax* v. *virginalis*

**Native to:** unknown (only known from aquaria and its introduced range)

**Habitat:** Temperate lentic waters, such as streams, rivers, ditches, ponds, wetlands, and retention basins

Medium sized crayfish up to 13 cm in body length, often less than 10 cm. Variable in colour, from bluish tinged to bright blue with a marbled pattern. Claws are small and marbled.

No records from Great Britain (GB) to date. Ecology and interactions with native species are insufficiently understood and impact in European habitats has yet to be assessed. However, it is a known carrier of crayfish plague, which is a threat to native crayfish, and consumes a broad range of plants and invertebrates, so poses a risk to native ecosystems. It is illegal to buy, sell, keep or release marbled crayfish in GB.

For details refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invasive-non-native-alien-animal-species-rules-in-england-and-wales>



Alexander Mrkvicka, CC BY-SA 3.0

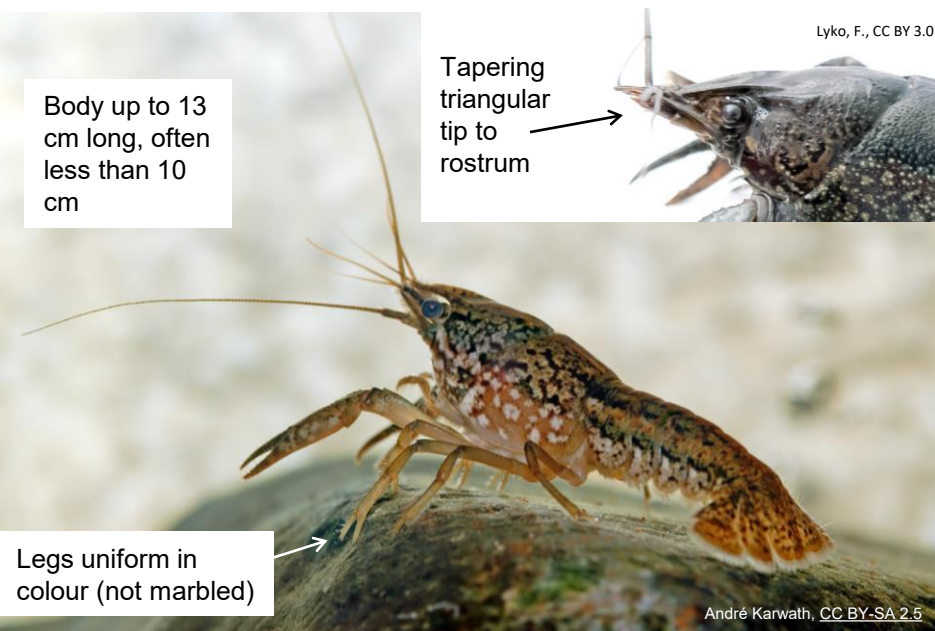
## Key ID Features

Body smooth, bluish tinged to bright blue in colour. Variable marbled pattern covering back and claws

Body up to 13 cm long, often less than 10 cm

Tapering triangular tip to rostrum

Lyko, F., CC BY 3.0



Legs uniform in colour (not marbled)

André Karwath, CC BY-SA 2.5

Claws usually around half the length of their carapace (back) and marbled with the same pattern as the body



Lyko, F., CC BY 3.0

## Similar Species

Marbled crayfish are not yet found in GB, but potential sightings could be confused with the white-clawed crayfish (the only native crayfish in GB) and several non-native crayfish.

### White-clawed crayfish

Native

(*Austropotamobius pallipes*)

Up to 12 cm, often <10 cm from tip of tail to front of head



Brown to red in colour

Cervical groove (line between head and body) has spikes

Claws dirty white to pink on the underside



David M. Holdich



Stephanie Peay

### Signal crayfish

Non-native

(*Pacifastacus leniusculus*)

Up to 16 cm long



Red-brown body and tail

Large claws with turquoise/white blotch on hinge and bright red underside



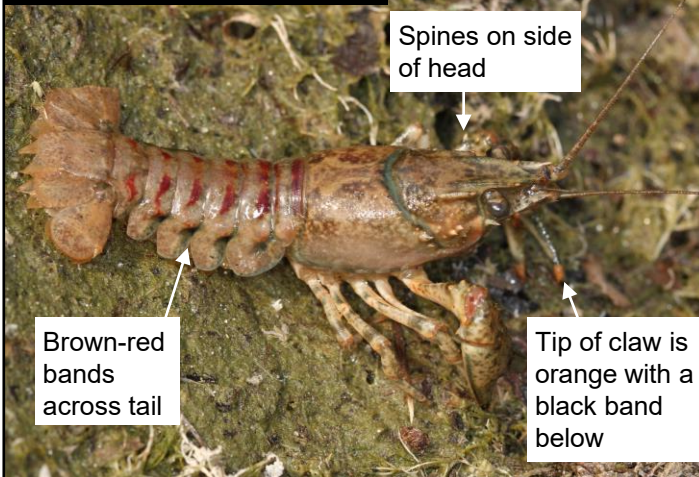
### Spiny-cheek crayfish

Non-native

(*Faxonius limosus*, aka *Orconectes limosus*)

Up to 12 cm long

Holger Krisp, CC BY 4.0



Spines on side of head

Brown-red bands across tail

Tip of claw is orange with a black band below

Body pale, dark brown, or olive green

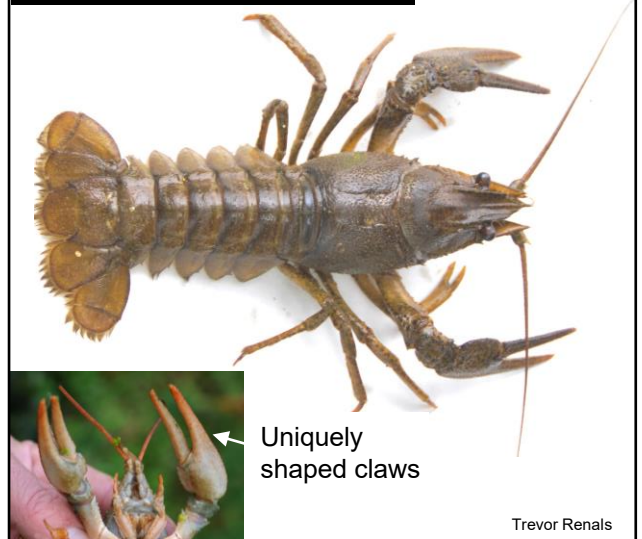
### Narrow-clawed crayfish

(aka Turkish crayfish)

Non-native

(*Pontastacus leptodactylus*)

Usually up to 15 cm but can be larger



Uniquely shaped claws

Trevor Renals

## Further information:

- <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/2837>
- <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/fish-and-invertebrates/marbled-crayfish/>
- <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabicompendium.110477>
- <https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/id-report/crustaceans/marbled-crayfish>
- [https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/07/Final-Crayfish-ID-distribution-and-Legislation-23-06-15\\_JG.pdf](https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/07/Final-Crayfish-ID-distribution-and-Legislation-23-06-15_JG.pdf)