

Ward's Hairy-legged Crab

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Paracleistostoma wardi is one of the less obvious crabs at the Wetlands Sanctuary, but it is quite interesting and worth watching out for. It is more abundant in Moreton Bay than locally. The maximum carapace size is 18 mm, and it is normally smooth with the appearance of being cut-off outside the eye-grooves, where there is some orangish colouration. Chelae (claws) are red to maroon. The legs are flattened and hairy right to the carapace edge. It is not unusual for this crab to be seen feeding positioned under shallow water, especially near the boardwalk in the Orange Mangrove forest. The crab on the left is a female, and on the right is a male.

