Halloween Crab Fact Sheet

**Common Name:** Halloween Crab / Red Land Crab / Whitespot Crab / Moon Crab / Harlequin Land Crab

**Scientific Name:** Gecarcinus quadratus

**Wild Status:** Least Concern

**Habitat:** Sand dunes, rainforest, and mangroves

**Country:** Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica

**Shelter:** Burrows

**Life Span:** 8-10 years

**Size:** 2-3 inches

**Details**

Halloween Crabs are colorful land crustaceans, generally found in Central and South America. Generally herbivores, seedlings and plant litter make up the majority of their diet. They have become very popular because of their unique and beautiful color scheme, that often includes purple claws, reddish legs, and a black carapace. They are natural climbers, so having wood branches and foliage to climb and play with is key to keeping a Halloween Crab happy. They also love to burrow, so depth to create tunnels and dig underground is important as well. Halloween Crabs are indeed land crabs, so they do not swim, but they still need freshwater and saltwater nearby.

**Cool Facts**

- Nocturnal
- Like the majority of crustaceans, they should be given a regular source of calcium to help strengthen their exoskeleton
• They have been known to fight each other, so it is best to keep them as individuals.
• Tend to live in forests as adults, and then return near the ocean to reproduce.
• Needs access to water to keep their gills moist.
• Will molt roughly every 18 months - you can tell they are getting ready when their eyes turn white and they become a duller color.

**Taxonomic Breakdown**

- **Kingdom:** Animalia
- **Phylum:** Arthropoda
- **Subphylum:** Crustacea
- **Class:** Malacostraca
- **Order:** Decapoda
- **Infraorder:** Brachyura
- **Family:** Gecarcinidae
- **Genus:** Gecarcinus
- **Species:** G. quadratus

**Conservation & Helping**

Halloween Crabs are of least concern on the endangered species list. Download all our fact sheets, take our quizzes, and more, all in the Critter Squad Kids’ Zone!

[https://www.crittersquad.com/kids-zone/](https://www.crittersquad.com/kids-zone/)