

CARING FOR YOUR HALLOWEEN CRAB

Scientific Name: *Gecarcinus quadratus*

Native to: *Costa Rica & Panama*

Maximum Length: 2.5 inches

Life Span: 8 + years



CHARACTERISTICS:

Halloween crabs, also known as moon crabs, are land crabs native to Costa Rica and Panama. Even though they are not known to be aggressive, it is recommended to handle with caution since they do have claws that can pinch.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure : Provide a single crab with a ten gallon aquarium. These crabs enjoy living in a group and a fifteen gallon aquarium will house 3-4 crabs comfortably. Be careful not to overcrowd them as these crabs can become very aggressive toward one another.

Substrate: They do like to burrow. Sand with some peat moss would make an ideal substrate for them.

Habitat: Environment should be half land and half aquatic. Provide some rocks, rough wood, plastic plants, or a piece of cork bark for your crab to climb on.

Temperature and Lighting: Proper temperature and lighting is important to this species as they are generally found in tropical climates. The enclosure should maintain a temperature of 78 to 85° F. You should also provide an under-tank heat pad on one side of the tank for your crab.

Food and Water: Halloween crabs enjoy commercial crab food, fruit, dead fish, mealworms, and crickets. These beautiful land crabs do need access to fresh water. This can be achieved by creating a half land, half aquatic environment or by simply using a large water bowl. This will also help maintain the recommended humidity level of at least 70%. With the high humidity levels mold and bacteria can grow quite quickly in a moon crabs enclosure, so be sure to clean the substrate frequently, and completely wipe down and disinfect the tank at least once a month.