

Agus i air a h-ainmeachadh air na h-inean molach oirre, buinidh a' chrùbag seo bho dhùthchas do thaobh an ear Àisia bho Shìona sa cheann a deas, gu Coiria sa cheann a tuath. Ann an Sìnis, 's e “crùbag mhòr nan còmhlaichean” a th' oirre. Tha cuairt-bheatha inntinneach fhèin aice, leis an fheadhainn òg a' mairsinn fad 4 gu 5 bliadhna ann am fìor-uisge, agus na dhèidh sin a' co-ghineadh agus an fheadhainn bhaineann a' dol air an imrich a-mach anns an t-sàl – a tha a dhìth orra gus an tèid aig na h-uighean air abachadh. Bidh iad a' tilleadh an uair sin gus an cuid uighean a ghiùlan ann an inbhirean saille as t-earrach gus am faod na h-uighean breith. Bidh na crùbagan òga a' siubhal an uair sin nas fhaide suas an abhainn agus a' tighinn gu aois agus bidh a' chuairt a' leantainn oirre.

Tha iad a' nochdadh ann an iomadh dùthaich a-nis, agus iad air an giùlan ann am builg luingeis no ann an soithichean de mhaorach beò. Chaidh an clàradh san Roinn Eòrpa an toiseach aig tùs nan 1900an, an uair sin ann an Sasainn ann an 1995 agus air Chluaidh ann an Alba ann an 2014. Chan eil ach dòrlach de chlàran Alba ann gu ruige seo, ach tha àireamhan stèidhichte mun Thames, mun Wash agus mu chladaichean Pholl a' Ghruthain, le àireamhan gu h-àrd air cladaich an iar-thuath Shasainn. Agus cho truagh agus a bha na h-oidhirpean gus stad a chur air sgaoileadh na gnè seo (oidhirpean air cur às dhi, sgàileanan agus cuislean dealanach nam measg), chan fhada gus am bi i pailt an seo, a' stèidheachadh àireamhan aig calaidhean dripeil mar a rinn i ann an Sasainn.

Chinese Mitten Crab

Crùbag Mhiotagach Shìonach

Eriocheir sinensis

Is i an aon gnè de chrùbaig a gheibhear ann am fìor-uisge san RA agus bidh i a' dèanamh milleadh nach beag le bhith a' cladhach ann an drèanaichean agus uchdanan, ach cuideachd ann an greanan aibhnichean is inbhirean far am faod i eag-eòlas na h-àrainn atharrachadh agus an ruaig a chur air gnèithean eile a tha nan dùthchasaich. Thèid aige air milleadh mòr a dhèanamh air, mar eisimpleir, leapannan-sìolachaidh a' bhradain.

*agus am meireal a' dol na bhùrn,
gun fhios' air a' ghrean,
crùbag choigreach a' togail ceann*

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Named after its furry claws, this crab species is native to east Asia from China in the south, to Korea in the north. In Chinese, it is known as the “big sluice crab”. It has a fascinating life cycle, where the juveniles live for 4 to 5 years in fresh water, after which they mate and the females migrate out into salt water -which they need for the eggs to mature. They then return to carry their eggs into brackish estuaries in the spring for the eggs to hatch. The young crabs then travel further upriver as they age and the cycle continues.

They now occur in many other countries, transported there in the bilge of shipping or in container shipments of live shellfish. They were first recorded in Europe in the early 1900s, then in England in 1995 and on the Clyde in Scotland in 2014. There are just a handful of Scottish records so far, but there are established populations centred around the Thames, the Wash and the coast of Liverpool, with colonies far up the north-west coast of England. Given how unsuccessful any preventative measures have been in halting the spread of this species (including attempted eradications, screens and electric pulses), it is only a matter of time before it becomes prevalent here, gaining centres of population in busy docks as it has in England.

It is the only species of crab found in fresh water in the UK and it causes significant damage by burrowing into drains and embankments, but also into beds of rivers and estuaries where it can change the ecology of the habitat and outcompete other, native species. It can cause great damage, for example, to the spawning beds of salmon.

NOTES

The Gaelic name follows the English and scientific names. In Gaelic, “crùbag” means “little crouching one”.

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where the brine becomes brackish, suddenly on the gravelly riverbed, a strange crab appears