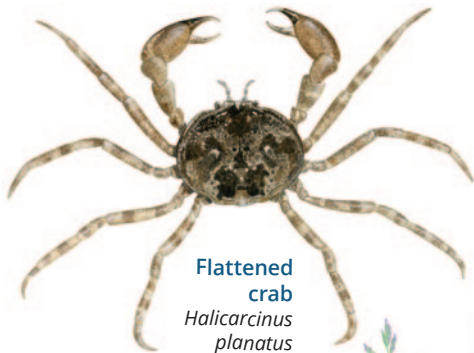


Mini guide to Antarctic invasive species



Flattened crab

Halicarcinus planatus

Climate change is warming sea water and may make crab invasions more likely.



Common earwig
Forficula auricularia

This insect will eat almost anything, including native plants and invertebrates.



Annual bluegrass
Poa annua

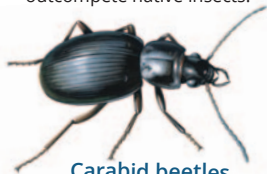
As one of the most invasive plants on Earth, this grass can quickly crowd out native species.



Winter crane fly

Trichocera maculipennis

This introduced fly can survive at low temperatures and could outcompete native insects.



Carabid beetles

e.g., *Trechisibus antarcticus*
These predatory beetles could eat native invertebrate species and cause local extinctions.



Chilean mussel

Mytilus chilensis

These shellfish can create large mussel beds and squeeze out native species.



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This mini guide shows just six species that have the potential to invade Antarctica. If you see any of these species, or anything similar, please take photographs if possible and report your finding to your tour operator or research station leader immediately.

Factfile

- Non-native species are living organisms that have arrived in a new region, often as a consequence of human activity.
- There are only approximately 15 non-native species currently established in Antarctica. Those that have negative impacts on the native biodiversity are termed invasive species.
- Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, alongside climate change, habitat destruction and, in the sea, overfishing.
- Non-native species can arrive in Antarctica in many different ways. They can be introduced on cargo, fresh foods or associated with visitors' clothing, footwear and personal equipment. Marine non-native species can be introduced as biofouling on ship hulls or in ship ballast water.
- Eradicating non-native species can be difficult or impossible. It is better to prevent their introduction in the first place by using effective biosecurity measures, like cleaning and careful checking of clothing and footwear.



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