

# Halloween Crab

Latin Name	Gecarcinus quadratus
Native to	Costa Rica
Maximum Length	2½ inches
Life Span	8–10 years
Enclosure	<p>Use screen-glass top combo terrarium or screen top with removable cover panels to maintain humidity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 gallons for single crab</li><li>• 20 gallons for two crabs or multiple small crabs</li></ul> <p>Provide shelter and climbing options such as a half-log, plants, or mopani wood.</p>
Substrate	Use a blend of sand (VitaSand) and coconut fiber (EcoEarth) to maintain humidity and allow digging. Deep sand (6 inches) allows crab to molt smoothly.
Temperature	day 78–83°F, night 70–73°F infrared heat lamp, heating pad
Light	nocturnal/crepuscular Ambient light or incandescent/LED lighting for viewing, 10–12 hours daily.
Humidity	tropical, 70–90% Use a fogger or mist crabs with distilled water 2 times daily. Keep substrate moist.
Water	Provide purified water in a shallow dish and clean saltwater in a separate dish.
Food	omnivorous scavenger  Feed daily: commercial crab food and any combination of produce such as chopped collard/mustard greens, chard, tropical fruit, tomatoes, carrot, corn, zucchini, apples, bananas, strawberries, peaches, or melon. Dust food with calcium powder twice weekly.
Molt Cycle	small crab: every 1–6 months adult crab: annual, during summer  ▲ Crab may bury itself for days to weeks when molting. Don't disturb it.
Sexing	male: deeper red color female: lighter orange
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Remove waste, sift substrate if dry enough.</li><li>■ Clean water bowls, replace water, both fresh and salt.</li><li>■ Clean food dish, provide new food.</li></ul>