

THE WORLD OF CARCINOLOGISTS

Carcinologists are scientists who study crustaceans – a group of **invertebrate** animals that includes crabs, lobsters, and shrimp. They study how crustaceans are able to live in an incredibly wide variety of **habitats** all across the world.

*Carcinologist
(kar-suh-NOL-uh-jist)*



*Lots of carcinologists' work is done outdoors, so they can study crabs and other crustaceans in their natural habitats. They need to wear sensible clothing to deal with different **climates**. Their equipment can include underwater cameras, nets, and **sensors** that monitor the conditions that the animals live in.*

WHAT DO CARCINOLOGISTS DO?

The work of carcinologists can tell us a lot about crustaceans and the incredible range of habitats that they live in.

FIELDWORK

Carcinologists travel to lots of places all across the world to study crabs and crustaceans in their natural **habitats**. This can involve observing how the crustaceans behave and interact with their environments, measuring how healthy those environments are, and keeping track of how many crustaceans there are living in each area.



LAB WORK

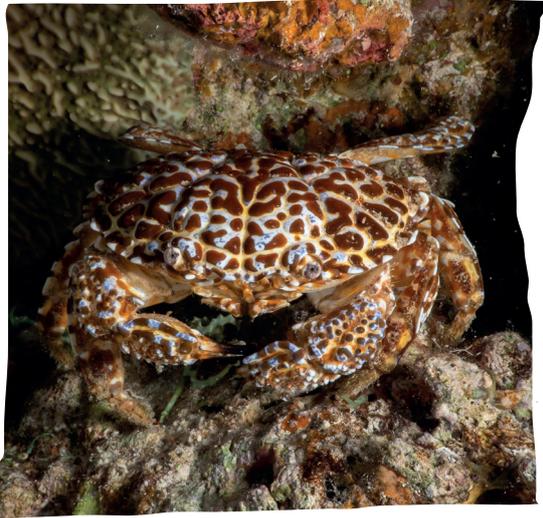
Carcinologists also do a lot of lab work to go alongside their fieldwork. They can use the data they collected about the number of crustaceans living in an area to compare how these populations have changed over time. **DNA** from **specimens** can also allow carcinologists to study what makes crustaceans so tough and **adaptable**.

WHO DO CARCINOLOGISTS WORK FOR?

Carcinologists can work for a wide range of organizations. This can include research institutions and governments, where they can help to look after and preserve the wide range of habitats that crustaceans live in. They can also work in aquariums and museums, helping to share their knowledge of these amazing animals with people!

FAMOUS DISCOVERIES

Carcinologists have made so many amazing discoveries that have changed our understanding of crabs and crustaceans. Here's just a few of the biggest and best!



TOXIC CRABS

Scientists have discovered several species of crabs that are **toxic**! One of these crabs is the Toxic Reef Crab. It lives in Australia and is so deadly that it could kill a human within hours, if eaten!



DEAFENING SNAPS

Some shrimp can create loud snapping noises with their claws, which are loud enough to **deafen** humans. They are some of the loudest animals in the world! These snaps also produce shockwaves that take down the shrimp's prey.



DECORATING SHELLS

Decorator crabs are masters of disguise. These crabs use tiny hooks on their shells to cover themselves with things like **algae** and even **venomous anemones**! These decorations act as a form of **camouflage** and help to protect the crabs from **predators**.



Carcinologists are making discoveries all the time; who knows what they might discover next!

FAMOUS CARCINOLOGISTS

There have been so many clever carcinologists over the years. Here's just a few of the most famous.



MARY JANE RATHBUN

Mary Jane was one of the first female carcinologists. She worked at a museum, helping to describe over 1,100 different species of crustaceans and developing a way of classifying and sorting them that is still used by scientists today.

WALDO L. SCHMITT

Waldo also worked in a museum, but a lot of his career was spent on scientific expeditions, studying crustaceans in their natural habitats all across the world. During just one trip to Antarctica, he collected over 29,000 specimens!



ISABELLA GORDON

Isabella was a curator at the Natural History Museum in London, United Kingdom, which has one of the largest collections of crustacean specimens of any museum! She was an expert on lots of kinds of crustaceans and gave talks about them in many different countries.



These are just a few of the many scientists who have made a huge difference to the study of crabs and other crustaceans.

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