

香港的馬蹄蟹 Horseshoe Crabs in Hong Kong

現今全球有四種馬蹄蟹，分別是美洲蠶、中國蠶、南方蠶及圓尾蠶。於香港能找到中國蠶及圓尾蠶。

Today, there are four species of horseshoe crabs, *Limulus polyphemus*, *Tachypleus tridentatus*, *Tachypleus gigas* and *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*. Both *T. tridentatus* and *C. rotundicauda* can be found in Hong Kong.



香港年幼馬蹄蟹分佈 The Distribution of Juvenile Horseshoe Crab in Hong Kong



在香港，年幼的馬蹄蟹的棲息地主要在潮間帶的沙灘和泥灘。成年的馬蹄蟹可以在西貢和大嶼山附近的水域找到。

In Hong Kong, the nursery grounds of juvenile horseshoe crabs are chiefly sandy beaches and mudflats in the intertidal zones. Adults can be found in local waters near Sai Kung and Lantau Island.

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活化石-馬蹄蟹 The Living Fossil - Horseshoe Crab

馬蹄蟹在地球上生活已超過四億多年，且外型改變不大，故被稱為「活化石」。

Horseshoe crabs have inhabited the earth for more than 400 million years and their basic morphology remains almost unchanged, so they are called 'living fossil'.

馬蹄蟹的生態故事 The Ecology of Horseshoe Crab

- 馬蹄蟹的卵直徑小於1厘米，需要一個多月的時間孵化。
Horseshoe crab eggs are small with diameter of less than 1 cm. It takes more than 1 month to hatch.
- 年幼的馬蹄蟹需要花十多年時間脫殼共15-17次，才會到達成熟期。
It takes more than 10 years for horseshoe crabs to moult approximately 15-17 times to reach maturity.
- 成年中國蠶的頭胸甲寬度可達30多厘米。
The prosomal width of adult *T. tridentatus* can be more than 30 cm.



馬蹄蟹的卵
Eggs of Horseshoe Crab



齊來行動! Take Action!

- 如在野外遇見馬蹄蟹，請用眼睛觀察，不要滋擾牠們。
Do not disturb horseshoe crabs in the wild. Appreciate them by observation.
- 請保護海洋環境和馬蹄蟹的育幼場。
Please protect the marine environment and the nursery grounds of horseshoe crabs.
- 不要吃馬蹄蟹或購買馬蹄蟹作放生用途。
Do not eat horseshoe crabs or purchase horseshoe crabs for release.



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馬蹄蟹冷知識 Fun Facts of Horseshoe Crabs



馬蹄蟹的血細胞遇到內毒素會快速凝固，因此能製成試劑來檢測醫藥產品是否存在毒素（於人體血液內的內毒素會引起人體的過敏反應，發熱甚至休克等嚴重症狀）。

Horseshoe crab's blood clots rapidly when it encounters endotoxin (Endotoxin in human blood may cause allergic symptoms such as fever and shock). It serves as a competent endotoxin detector for pharmaceutical tests.

馬蹄蟹受驚時，會利用尾巴挖開沙或濕泥藏身其中。如果馬蹄蟹在陸上不小心反轉了身體，就要靠尾巴將身體糾正過來。

The horseshoe crab's tail is used to plow the crab through the sand. It is also need to right the crab up when a crab accidentally tips over.



馬蹄蟹步足的基部有細刺，可用來磨碎食物。

Horseshoe crabs crush their food into tiny pieces with the spiny bases of their walking legs.

潮退時，年幼的馬蹄蟹會從沙裡爬到沙面上覓食。牠們的身體部分被沙遮蓋，有助躲避天敵，但卻因為爬行時於沙面留下三線狀的足跡而暴露行蹤。

During the ebb, juvenile horseshoe crabs emerge from sand to search for food. Their bodies are partly covered by sand to avoid their predators. However, the distinctive three-lines crawling trails expose their whereabouts.



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