

Striped barnacle

Phylum	Arthropoda
Subphylum	Crustacea
Class	Maxillopoda
Subclass	Cirripedia
Order	Thoracica
Family	Balanidae

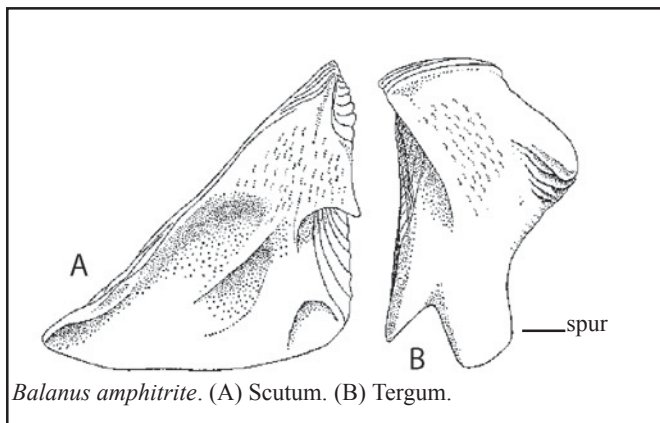


Photo by R. DeFelice

DESCRIPTION

Balanus amphitrite is a small, conical, sessile barnacle (to about 1.5 cm diameter). Color is whitish with purple or brown longitudinal stripes. Surface of test plates are longitudinally ribbed. The interlocking tergum and scutum, the paired structures which cover the animal inside are as pictured below.

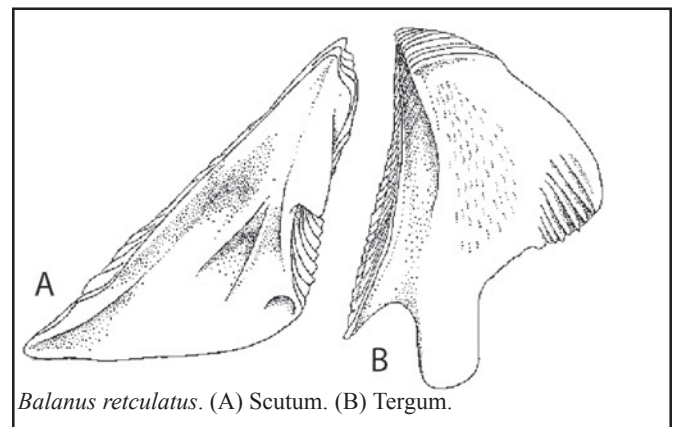
A similar species, *Balanus reticulatus* Utinomi, is also an introduced species and commonly occurs with *B. amphitrite*. It also has longitudinal purple or brown stripes, but these stripes are intersected by horizontal grooves, giving the surface of the test plates a rough reticulated striation, unlike *B. amphitrite*. It can also be distinguished by examination of the tergum and scutum pictured below. Note the more sharply pointed apex of the tergum and the elongated and narrower tergum spur of *B. reticulatus*.

*Balanus amphitrite*. (A) Scutum. (B) Tergum.

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HABITAT

Very common in the intertidal fouling communities of harbors and protected embayments. The live attached to any available hard surface, including rocks, pier pilings, ship hull, oyster shells, and mangrove roots.

*Balanus reticulatus*. (A) Scutum. (B) Tergum.

DISTRIBUTION

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Throughout the main Hawaiian Islands

NATIVE RANGE

Southwestern Pacific and Indian Ocean

PRESENT DISTRIBUTION

World-wide in warm and temperate seas

MECHANISM OF INTRODUCTION

Unintentional, as fouling on ships hulls

IMPACT

Barnacles are a serious fouling problem on ship bottoms, buoys, and pilings. The ecological impact of this barnacle in Hawaii is unstudied.

ECOLOGY

Feeding

Barnacles have specialized paired appendages, called cirri, that they use as a scoop net, reaching out into the water and extracting food particles. When they cirri are drawn back, food is scraped off into the mouth.

Reproduction

These barnacles are hermaphrodites, but cross-fertilization occurs in dense populations. In such cases, males deposit sperm directly into the mantle cavity of adjacent functional females via a long tube. Fertilized eggs are brooded in the mantle cavity, and it may be several months before the free-swimming planktonic larvae are released.

REMARKS

This now widespread barnacle of southern hemisphere origins was first collected in 1902 in Honolulu Harbor. Edmondson (1933, as *Balanus amphitrite hawaiiensis*) noted that it was very common in Pearl Harbor on piling and shore rocks. Both *B. amphitrite* and *B. reticulatus* are well established in Hawaii and have been widely reported by many authors throughout the main Islands.

REFERENCES

Edmondson, C.H. 1933. Reef and Shore Fauna of Hawaii. B.P. Bishop Mus. Spec. Pub. 22.