

Striped Barnacle

Amphibalanus amphitrite

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 **Pathway** • Hull fouling • Litter • Possibly through ballast water

Impacts

Biodiversity

Competes with native barnacle species for space. Potential to impact habitat structure in mussel and oyster beds.

Human Health

None known.

Economy

Has the potential to impact the integrity of man-made structures such as harbours. Fouling of Pacific oyster farms. Major contributor to fouling of ships, which can have a negative economic impact such as increased fuel costs.

Key ID Features



Vertical red-brown stripes that narrow at the top

Description

Shell can be conical or near cylindrical in shape, narrowing towards the top. Outer wall is made of six rigid plates, which can be smooth or have vertical ribs. Attaches directly to hard substrate with a hard-calcareous base.

Size

Shell base usually 0.5 - 1 cm in diameter (maximum 3 cm). Shell height up to 1 cm. Height is usually less than double the width.


Colour

White with vertical red-brown stripes that narrow at the top.

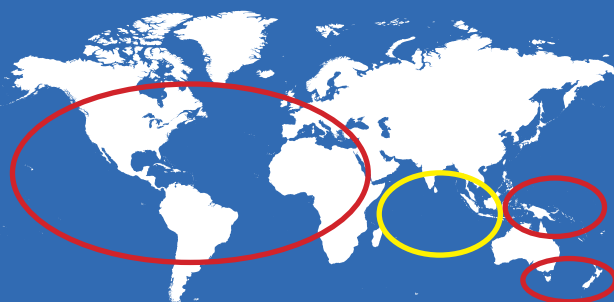
*Note: Images not to scale



Distribution

 **Native range:** Difficult to determine, likely the Indo-Pacific region.

 **Non-native range:** Global, including most of the Atlantic Ocean, Eastern, Northwestern and Southwestern reaches of the Pacific, New Zealand and possibly Southern Australia.



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Habitat and Ecology

Habitat: Sheltered intertidal and subtidal zone. Attaches to rocks and other shellfish, and artificial structures in harbours such as vessels and jetty legs.

Environmental preferences: Tolerates some salinity variation. Can tolerate temperature variation but needs to be higher than 15 °C for reproduction to take place.

Diet: Filter feeders of phytoplankton, zooplankton, and detritus.

Reproduction: Hermaphrodite that can simultaneously produce female and male gametes. Can also cross fertilize by sperm deposition into the female mantle cavity where fertilized eggs develop and 1,000 to 10,000 can be released in any one reproductive event.

Confusion with similar species

Vertical red-brown stripes that narrow at the top may help differentiate it from *Semibalanus* and *Balanus* species.

Balanus glandula without vertical red-brown stripes (see image below).



If you think you have seen this species, please contact the person below who will confirm its identity.

Please also refer to the mitigation strategies guidance document, provided as part of the Marine Biosecurity Toolkit.

Further Information

- <https://invasions.si.edu/nemesis/calnemo/SpeciesSummary.jsp?TSN=89616>
- https://www.exoticsguide.org/balanus_amphitrite
- <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/112644>

Images

Front: All images © John Bishop
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