# Striped acorn barnacle

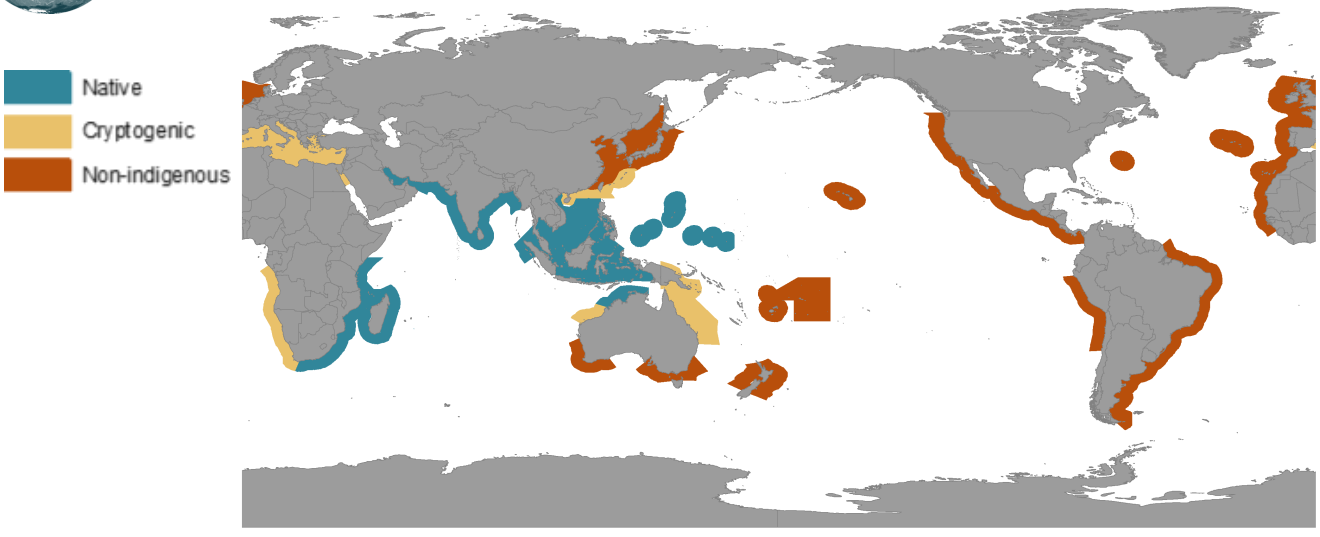
*Amphibalanus amphitrite* (Darwin, 1854)

## KEY FEATURES

- Shell made of several plates, usually conical or subcylindrical, the orifice is quadrangular, toothed
- Entire shell up to 30 mm basal diameter, but adults typically range from 5.5 to 15 mm diameter
- Plates have wide longitudinal ribs, narrowing at the top of the shell plates
- Colour in life, white with longitudinal pink, brownish, or purplish stripes
- Intertidal and shallow subtidal on hard substrates, preferring harbours and man-made structures including docks and ship hulls but also found on logs, mangroves, rocks, oysters, and other shellfish
- Prefers warmer temperatures and can tolerate salinities between 10 and 52

## PATHWAY

✓ Ballast water ✓ Biofouling



# Striped acorn barnacle

*Amphibalanus amphitrite* (Darwin, 1854)

## IMPACTS

### Environmental impacts

Fouling organism with a high recruitment rate, known to displace native barnacles in Japan and India. Affects community composition where it creates additional hard substrate for the recruitment of other species. Competition with tropical corals is thought to be the limiting factor at the northern limit of range

### Human health impacts

Sharp shells may pose risk of laceration

### Social & cultural impacts

None known

### Economic impacts

Nuisance fouler on wharves, jetties, and buoys, and reported to foul 'sluice' systems and affect survival and growth of cultured oysters by settling on their shells

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Hermaphroditic species capable of cross fertilisation, with nauplius larvae released from mantle, spending 4 to 18 days in the water column going through successive moults before being a non-feeding cyprid stage
- Cyprids have a pair of chitinous shells and swim, investigating for suitable surfaces for settlement
- It could also be a member of the *Amphibalanus amphitrite* species complex and can be confused with *A. improvisus* (Darwin, 1854), *A. eburneus* (Gould, 1841), *A. reticulatus* (Utinomi, 1967), *A. subalbidus* (Henry, 1973), *A. variegatus* (Darwin, 1854), and other closely related species

## DISTRIBUTION

**Native range** Difficult to determine but thought to include the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, from Southeastern Africa to Southern China

**Non-indigenous range** Thought to have been introduced to the Southwestern Pacific, Hawai'i, Caribbean, Northwestern, Eastern and Southeastern Atlantic

## CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

**Images** Top: Auguste Le Roux (CC BY-SA 4.0), bottom: Pipit Pitriana from Pitriana et al 2020

**References** Galil et al. (2011), Carlton et al. (2021), Chui and Ang (2010)

SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
gef
Pacific Invasive Species BATTLER
UN environment programme