

## Ivory barnacle

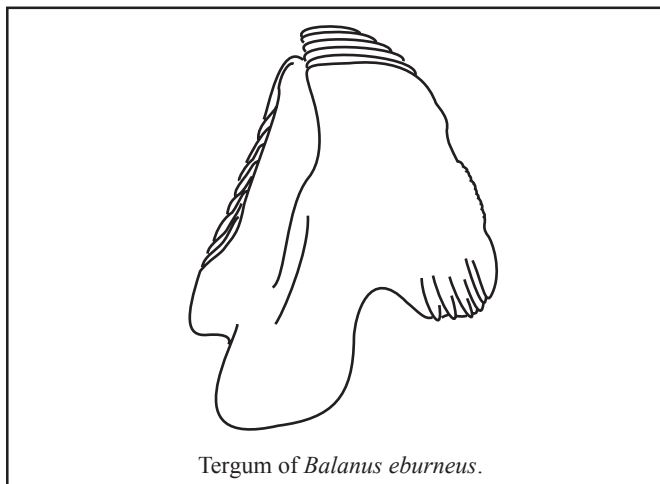
**Phylum** Arthropoda  
**Subphylum** Crustacea  
**Class** Maxillopoda  
**Subclass** Cirripedia  
**Order** Thoracica  
**Family** Balanidae



Photo by R. DeFelice

### DESCRIPTION

A small, white, conical barnacle, without the longitudinal stripes of *Balanus amphitrite* and *B. reticulatus* previously discussed. Large adults approach 2 cm in diameter. Surface of the test plates generally smooth or with shallow horizontal grooves. The tergum (pictured below) has a short broad spur with a rounded tip, quite distinct from both *B. amphitrite* and *B. reticulatus*.



### HABITAT

Common in the low intertidal fouling community. Found on ship hulls, buoys, pilings, oysters and mangrove roots.

### DISTRIBUTION

#### HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Throughout the main islands

#### NATIVE RANGE

Atlantic coast of North America and Caribbean to northern South America

#### PRESENT DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide in warm and tropical seas

#### MECHANISM OF INTRODUCTION

An early unintentional introduction, as fouling on ships' hulls

### IMPACT

Nuisance fouling species. Ecological impact unstudied, most likely some competition for space with other intertidal species.

## 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 western Atlantic Ocean “ivory barnacle” was first collected in 1929 in Pearl Harbor. Edmondson (1931) wrote that *Balanus eburneus* is a typical species of the east coast of the United States, which is suggestive of the view that the barnacle may have been transported to Hawaii through shipments of oysters or on the bottoms of ships. Edmondson (1933) noted that it was in Pearl Harbor, on buoys, floats, and oyster shells. It is now abundant and has been reported throughout the main Islands.

## REFERENCES

- Edmondson, C.H. 1931. New crustacea from Kauai, Oahu and Maui. Occ. Pap. B.P. Bishop Mus. 9(17): 18.
- Edmondson, C.H. 1933. Reef and Shore Fauna of Hawaii. B.P. Bishop Mus. Spec. Pub. 22.