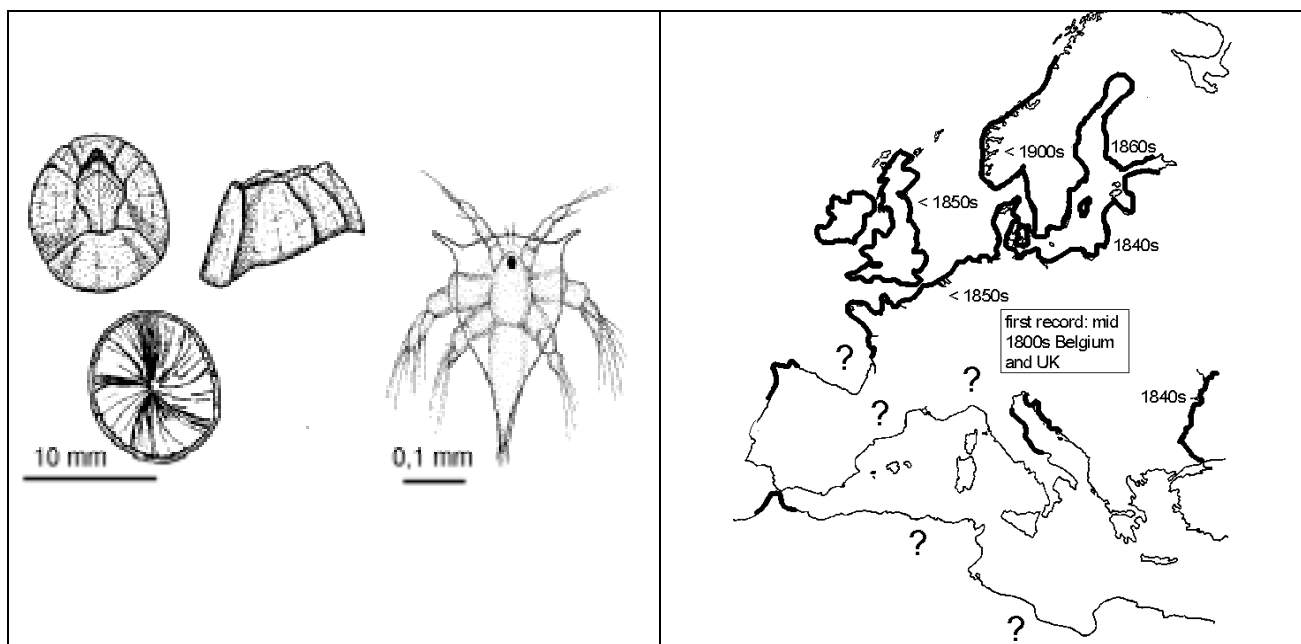


Balanus improvisus (Darwin 1854), Balanidae, Cirripedia

Common names: Acorn barnacle (English), Merirokko (Finnish)

Sessile, mainly estuarine and brackish-water crustacean



Balanus improvisus. Adult [39] and nauplia [40]. Known coastal distribution of *B. improvisus*.

Impact:

(* = possibly harmful, ** = harmful, *** = very harmful, ? = not known, \$ = beneficial)

Resources/Environment			Uses of the Sea		
Commercial stocks	***	Fouling of blue mussels and oysters	Fisheries	-	
Other biota	**	Competition of space and food	Aquaculture	***	Fouling of cages
Human health	**	Sharp shells	Water abstractions	***	Fouling of water intake pipes and heat exchangers
Water quality	\$	Filter feeding	Aquatic transport	***	Fouling of boat and ship hulls and navigational constructions
Habitat modification	**	Changes in substratum	Tourism	**	Sharp shells

Vulnerable habitats: Brackish water bays and estuaries to shallow marine habitats (max. 6 m depth) with hard substrata (stones, rocky shores and man-made constructions such as breakwaters and ships). The species is also found as fouling on macroalgae, crustaceans and molluscs. It is widely distributed indicating its potential of becoming established from warm temperate to tropical regions.

Biology: *Balanus improvisus* are hermaphroditic sessile crustaceans. They reach maturity at 6-8 mm size. Several broods per year; two broods in the Baltic Sea, one brood only in very diluted water [32]. Free swimming nauplius larvae hatch in water and live in the plankton for 2 to 5 weeks (1-2 weeks in optimum conditions and temperatures around 14° C; [12] and pass seven larval stages of which the last one (0.5 mm long cypris larvae) settle on hard substrates.