

**INTERTIDAL BARNACLES OF THE FIDALGO BAY AND CHERRY POINT  
AQUATIC RESERVES - Michael Kyte, Spring 2015**

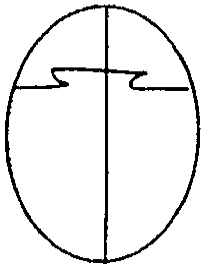
**Barnacles in the Upper to Mid-Intertidal Zone (ITZ) (above +6-7 ft).**

**OVERVIEW:** *Chthamalus dalli* (Brown Barnacle) or *Balanus glandula* (Acorn Barnacle). These species may overlap in vertical distribution but will be generally separate with *C. dalli* above *B. glandula* due to competition for space.

If barnacle is in mid or lower ITZ, go to Page 2.

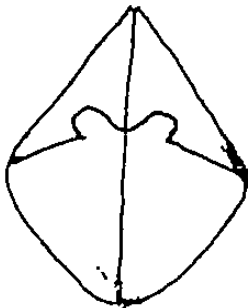
***Chthamalus dalli* Brown Barnacle:**

Operculum: a cross; outside plates smooth;  
Size: small, diameter, at base not more than 1 cm;  
Color: gray or brownish gray;  
Does not form dense crowded populations.



***Balanus glandula* Acorn Barnacle:**

Operculum: distinctive sinuous pattern;  
Outer plates with deep, wide grooves if not crowded,  
Size: often more than 1 cm when not crowded; tall and thin when barnacles are crowded;  
Zone note: vertically adjacent to and relatively lower in ITZ than *C. dalli* but still in upper to mid-ITZ.



**Barnacles in mid to lower ITZ (below +5-6 ft).**

**OVERVIEW:** *Semibalanus cariosus* (Thatched Barnacle), more common; or *Balanus crenatus* (Smooth Acorn Barnacle), uncommon and mostly occurs in the lowest ITZ. *B. glandula* (Page 1) may extend into the upper part of this zone.

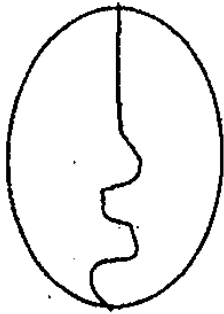
***Semibalanus cariosus*** Thatched Barnacle:

Operculum: wavy line

Outer plates: rough with vertical threads, resembles a pile of hay or sticks

Size: relatively small

Can form dense crowded populations.



***Balanus crenatus*** Smooth Acorn Barnacle:

Operculum: joint with sharp angles

Outer plates: smooth, very white, plate boundaries clearly visible

Populations usually not crowded

Zone note: usually in lowest ITZ, but may be higher where suitable substrate is available.

