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A checklist of the barnacles (Crustacea: Cirripedia: Thoracica) of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with nine new records

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Abstract

The present annotated checklist contains 43 species of thoracican barnacles known to date from the area, 33 and 26 from the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, respectively. Nine species are new records for the area including *Amphibalunus subalbidus* (Henry, 1973), *Armatobalanus allium* (Darwin, 1854), *Chelonibia patula* (Ranzani, 1818), *Conchoderma hunteri* (Owen, 1830), *Lepas anserifera* Linnaeus, 1767, *Lithotrya valentiana* Reinhardt, 1850, *Megabalanus coccopoma* (Darwin, 1854), *Megabalanus occator* (Darwin, 1854) and *Platylepas hexastylus* (Fabricius, 1798), of which *A. subalbidus* and *M. coccopoma* are reported as alien species from the region.

Key words: Barnacle, Cirripedia, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Checklist, New records

Introduction

The classification of the subphylum Crustacea has recently been revised by Ah Yong *et al.* (2011). They included three superorders for the infraclass Cirripedia Burmeister, 1834, namely Acrothoracica Gruvel, 1905 (burrowing barnacles), Rhizocephala Müller, 1862 (parasitic barnacles) and Thoracica Darwin, 1854 (true barnacles). The superorder Thoracica is well represented and well documented compared to the other two groups. However, the cirripede fauna of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman has not received much taxonomic attention compared to other crustacean groups. The majority of studies on the barnacle fauna of the region are pre-1970, although barnacles are some of the most potent marine organisms passively distributed to new areas via human activity (Tottrup *et al.* 2010; Farrapeira *et al.* 2007). *Acasta spongites* (Poli, 1795) was the first recorded species from the region (Gruvel, 1902), Nilsson-Cantell (1938) reported 13 species from the Persian Gulf and four from the Gulf of Oman and Stubbings (1961) reported five species from the Kuwait coast in the Persian Gulf. Utinomi (1969) examined material collected by the Danish Expedition 1937/1938 and recorded 16 species, of which 13 are from the Persian Gulf and nine from the Gulf of Oman. He also recorded two species of parasitic barnacles, *Sacculina leptodiae*, Guérin-Ganivet, 1911 and *S. angulata* Van Kampen & Boschma, 1925, from the crabs *Leptodius* spp and *Thalamita iranica* Stephensen, 1946, respectively. Basson *et al.* (1977) and Jones (1986) recorded two and five species from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, respectively. Since 2005, a biodiversity project along the Iranian coast of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman is focusing mainly on intertidal Crustacea. Barnacles collected by the project are deposited in the Zoological Museum, University of Tehran (ZUTC) (detailed in Shahdadi, 2007). From this collection, two chthamalid species were recorded (Shahdadi & Sari, 2011), a new species, *Tetraclita ehsani* Shahdadi *et al.* 2011, was described, and the remainder are presented herein. The current work adds nine new records to the barnacle list of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Some are likely newly introduced to the area, raising the recorded number of thoracican barnacles to 43 species, of which 33 occur in the Persian Gulf and 26 in the Gulf of Oman. An annotated checklist of the barnacles is provided and their geographical distribution, habitat

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