

Giant Rock Barnacle *Austromegabalanus nigrescens*

Where to look:

Lower shore (low tide), rock surfaces in areas of high wave exposure, can be found in WA, SA, TAS, NSW, QLD



Six large plates with top to bottom (transverse) grooves

White to light green in colour

Similar species:

Barnacles can resemble limpets as both are round, pyramid-shaped and cream in colour. Barnacles can be distinguished from limpets by their shells, which are always made up of multiple plates. Limpets always have shells that consist of only one singular plate. Limpets are also free moving whereas barnacles are always fixed to a hard surface. Giant rock barnacles can be distinguished by their size, as they are taller than they are round and have similar shape to a volcano. They can be found singularly or in a group.

Circular or pyramid-like structures made from calcium carbonate

Size: 5 cm high, 3 cm diameter (largest type of barnacle)

Image courtesy of ClimateWatch user E Poloczanska