


Surf Barnacle *Catomerus polymerus*

Where to look:

Mid to lower shore (mid to low tide) and in areas of high wave exposure
WA, NSW, SA, TAS, VIC



Hard circular or pyramid-like structures made from calcium carbonate

Size: 2 cm height, 2 cm diameter

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. Surf barnacles have a distinctive scaly appearance and are found in areas of high wave exposure.

8 main side plates, surrounded by many smaller ones

Scaly appearance. Grey with a greenish tinge

Images courtesy of ClimateWatch users Amber Burberry and E Poloczanska