

## Lepas

### Classification

**Kingdom:** Animalia  
**Phylum:** Arthropoda  
**Class:** Thecostraca  
**Subclass:** Cirripedia  
**Order:** Scalpellomorpha  
**Family:** Lepadidae  
**Genus:** Lepas



For Further details [link](#)

### Habit and Habitat

- They live on floating objects that move with ocean currents. They attach themselves to a variety of items, including driftwood, bottles, boats, buoys, macroalgal rafts, and even marine animals.
- Lepas barnacles are found in the epipelagic zone of the ocean, the area near the surface where sunlight penetrates. They have a worldwide distribution in tropical and subtropical seas.

### Characteristic

- The main characteristic of *Lepas* is its heart-shaped bivalve shell, called a capitulum, that can grow up to 5 cm in length and surrounds the body and limbs.
- The capitulum is composed of five striated, glossy white, calcareous plates. The first pair of calcareous plates are located at the aperture and the end of the peduncle. The second pair is more distal, located near the aperture.
- The fifth plate, the carina, creates a spine that connects all the valves to one another. The capitular valve allows extrusion and extraction of six food-catching tentacular structures called cirri.
- The eggs of *Lepas anatifera* are about 140-260 X 100-120 microns and hatch into free swimming larvae that undergo six specialized naupliar stages. Development to the 10 mm long, plankton-eating stage VI can take up to two months.
- The larvae then transforms into a cyprid, which is a non-feeding search and settlement stage. The cyprid larvae drift along the ocean currents until it identifies and attaches to a substratum.
- Sexual maturity occurs more slowly in cold waters than in warmer waters. Approximately 120 days after settlement these barnacles develop reproductive organs at temperatures between 10.2 to 18.4 °C, but the reproductive development takes 30 days if the surface temperature of the water is around 25 °C.
- The large protrusible penis is located on the ventral surface of the abdomen and its top is the opening of the male gonopore. The female gonopores are associated with the base of the first cirri.