

Geographic distribution and description of four pelagic barnacles along the south east Pacific coast of Chile - a zoogeographical approximation

Distribución geográfica y descripción de cuatro especies de cirripedios pelágicos a lo largo de la costa chilena del Pacífico sur este - una aproximación zoogeográfica

IVÁN HINOJOSA¹, SEBASTIÁN BOLTAÑA¹, DOMINGO LANCELOTTI¹, ERASMO MACAYA¹,
PABLA UGALDE¹, NELSON VALDIVIA¹, NELSON VÁSQUEZ¹, WILLIAM A. NEWMAN² & MARTIN THIEL^{1,3*}

¹Facultad Ciencias del Mar, Universidad Católica del Norte, Larrondo 1281, Coquimbo, Chile

²Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA 92093-0202, USA

³Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Zonas Áridas CEAZA, Coquimbo, Chile;

*e-mail for correspondence: thiel@ucn.cl

ABSTRACT

The majority of zoogeographic studies along the Chilean Pacific coast have focused on benthic organisms and oceanographic conditions are considered the main factors influencing their distributions. Herein we examined the geographic distribution of pelagic barnacles of the family Lepadidae collected from floating macroalgae at seven sampling areas between 23 and 50° S. Four species were encountered and they are briefly described herein. The most abundant northern species was *Lepas anatifera*, and it diminished in abundance towards the south (33° S). Moreover, this species was not found in waters with a sea surface temperature (SST) of less than ~18 °C. *Lepas australis*, primarily a circumpolar West Wind Drift species, diminished in abundance towards the north (33° S). This species was restricted to waters of < 18 °C SST. A third species, *L. pectinata*, was encountered throughout almost the entire study area, but it was most abundant between 29 and 33° S. The fourth species, *Dosima fascicularis*, was only found at two sampling areas, namely at 27° S and 33° S, and this is the first record of this species from the central coast of Chile. The distributional pattern of the pelagic barnacles found herein corresponds to the three main zoogeographic regions as revealed by the majority of previous studies based on littoral organisms: the northern Peru-Chilean Province, the southern Magellanic Province, and the central Chilean Transition Zone where the two provinces overlap. Even though the present study only considers four species of pelagic barnacles, the results support the hypotheses on the importance of oceanographic conditions (in particular SST) in determining the zoogeographic patterns along the south east Pacific coast of Chile.

Key words: zoogeography, *Lepas*, oceanography, pelagic, Cirripedia.

RESUMEN

La mayoría de los estudios de zoogeografía a lo largo de la costa chilena del Pacífico sur este se han enfocado en organismos bentónicos y las condiciones oceanográficas se sugieren como factores principales que modulan su distribución. Aquí examinamos la distribución geográfica de especies de cirripedios pelágicos de la familia Lepadidae, asociadas a macroalgas flotando a la deriva, en siete áreas de muestreo entre los 23 y 50° S. Se encontraron cuatro especies de cirripedios lepadidos y cada una se describe brevemente. La especie del norte más abundante fue *Lepas anatifera* y disminuye su abundancia hacia el sur (33° S). Además, esta especie no se encontró en temperatura superficial del mar (SST) inferior a ~18 °C. *Lepas australis*, que posee una distribución circumpolar, atenúa su abundancia hacia el norte (33° S). Esta especie se restringe a SST < 18 °C. La tercera especie, *L. pectinata* se extiende en la mayor parte del área de estudio, pero posee su mayor abundancia relativa en el área central, entre 29 y 33° S. La cuarta especie, *Dosima fascicularis*, solo se encontró en dos lugares de muestreo, en 27 y 33° S, y es el primer registro para la costa central de Chile. El patrón de distribución de estas especies de cirripedios pelágicos corresponde a las principales zonas geográficas reveladas por la mayoría de estudios previos basados en organismos bentónicos: la Provincia Peruano-Chilena del Norte, la Provincia Magallánica del Sur y una Zona Central de Transición, donde las dos provincias se sobrepone. A pesar que el presente estudio solo considera cuatro especies de cirripedios pelágicos, nuestros resultados apoyan la hipótesis de la importancia de las condiciones oceanográficas (en particular: SST) en la modulación del patrón zoogeográfico a lo largo de la costa sur este del Pacífico, Chile.

Palabras clave: zoogeografía, *Lepas*, oceanografía, pelágico, cirripedios.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of biogeographic studies along the south east Pacific coast of Chile indicate the presence of three biogeographical zones (e.g., Knox 1960, Lancellotti & Vásquez 1999, 2000, Camus 2001, Thiel 2002; but see also Hernández et al. 2005). In general, there is evidence that the northern biota, with its temperate characteristics, extends southwards while the austral biota extends northwards, and both overlap in a central zone. In a review of various biogeographic studies, Camus (2001) suggested the following limits for the south east Pacific: (i) the Peruvian Province north of 30° S, (ii) the Magellanic Province south of 41–43° S, and (iii) the intermediate area in the central Chilean region, where the two first provinces overlap. Additionally, it has been discussed that the exact limit for each zone can vary depending on the number of taxa considered in the respective studies (Lancellotti & Vásquez 2000, Camus 2001) or the prevalent oceanographic conditions during the sampling period (Thiel 2002, Escribano et al. 2003).

Most zoogeographic studies along the SE Pacific coast have focused on littoral organisms (primarily benthic invertebrates), and oceanographic conditions have been suggested as the main factors influencing species dispersal (Knox 1960, Menzies 1962, Lancellotti & Vásquez 1999, 2000, Ojeda et al. 2000, and references in Camus 2001). In particular, it has been inferred that the latitudinal gradient of sea surface temperature (SST) along the Chilean coast is responsible for the distribution of many littoral and benthic organisms (Lancellotti & Vásquez 1999, 2000, Astorga et al. 2003, Rivadeneira & Fernández 2005). While relatively consistent biogeographic patterns are emerging, the driving forces behind these patterns are not very well known. SST may act directly on adult organisms in benthic habitats, or it may affect transport and survival of planktonic dispersal stages. If biogeographic patterns are dependent on water column processes, we could expect similar patterns for planktonic organisms as have been revealed for littoral benthic organisms.

While most studies along the Pacific coast of Chile have focused on the latitudinal distribution of littoral benthos, there are also a

few studies on pelagic species. Fagetti (1968) reported on three groups of species of Chilean Chaetognatha; a northern group consisting of tropical-equatorial species, a southern group consisting of sub-Antarctic species, and a central group of species. The author mentioned a key species within each of the three groups that acted as a bio-indicator for each of the different water masses (SST and salinity). A northern species is replaced by a southern species at 30° S, whereas another northern species ranges southward to 38° S. Antezana (1981) identified four groups of Euphausiacea for the south east Pacific, and included the geographic information of chaetognaths, medusae and calanoid copepod fauna. This author distinguished two provinces along the Pacific coast of Chile, a northern Peruvian-Chilean province and a southern Magellanic province, separated by a transitional zone between 38° S at 42° S. As the principal cause for this pelagic faunas distribution pattern he suggested that the northern limit of intrusion of subantarctic waters in the Humboldt Current lies between about 37 and 38° S. Similarly, in a recent synthesis of the pelagic fauna, Escribano et al. (2003) suggested three zoogeographical regions along the Chilean coast; Northern Upwelling Region (NUR, north of 30° S), Central/South Upwelling Region (CSUR, 30 to 40° S) and an Austral Fjord Region (AFR, south of 40° S). These authors found similarities in phyto- and zooplankton composition between NUR and CSUR, but mentioned that “physical processes may be more important in regulating pelagic populations in the CSUR than in the NUR, where biological interactions seem to play a greater role”. Thus, pelagic organisms indeed appear to display a very similar distributional pattern as many benthic organisms. In order to verify whether this pattern holds for other organisms, herein we examined the distribution of pelagic goose barnacles.

All barnacles of the family Lepadidae (goose barnacles) are pelagic, commonly found associated with floating objects, e.g., ships, buoys, wood, animals, marine debris and macroalgae, and only members of one genus (*Dosima*) can produce a float of their own (Skerman 1958, Cheng & Lewin 1976, Arnbom & Lundberg 1995, Minchin 1996, Gollasch 2002, Sano et al. 2003). Some authors

suggested that the geographic distribution of these barnacles is restricted to particular oceanographic conditions (e.g., species-specific SST) (Zevina & Memmi 1981, Moyse 1987, Green et al. 1994).

In the Southern Hemisphere goose barnacles are found abundantly on rafts of two species of floating macroalgae, *Macrocystis* spp. (C. Agardh, 1820) and *Durvillaea antarctica* (Hariot 1892), (Helmuth et al. 1994, Smith & Bayliss-Smith 1998, Thiel & Gutow 2005). The time that detached macroalgae survive on the sea surface before sinking (several weeks to months) is sufficiently long for larvae of goose barnacles to settle, grow and achieve sexual maturity (Skerman 1958, Green et al. 1994, Smith & Bayliss-Smith 1998, Hobday 2000a).

In this study we present brief descriptions of the goose barnacles found on floating *Macrocystis* spp. and *D. antarctica* along the Chilean Pacific coast. Additionally, we describe the distributional pattern of these pelagic barnacles and compare it with the biogeography reported for benthic marine organisms. We expected that if the actual distribution of littoral fauna is determined by recent oceanographic processes, the distribution pattern of pelagic organisms (such as goose barnacles) should match that of the littoral fauna.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During austral summer 2002 (January–March) we carried out nine surveys along the south east Pacific coast of Chile, between ~18 and ~50° S. For the surveys we utilized medium-sized (~15 m total length) fishing boats or research vessels. The ship track led westward for ~50 km, turning southwards for ~15 km before returning directly to the port. Each hour we recorded the SST, thus obtaining ~12 measurements for each sampling area, except for the location close to “Isla Madre de Dios” (~50° S, where we could only take one measurement due to foul weather). During navigation we surveyed the sea surface for floating *Macrocystis* spp. and *Durvillaea antarctica*. Samples were only taken at seven areas (Table 1), because no floating macroalgae were detected at the two northernmost locations (Arica and Iquique). The number of samples varied for each sampling area between six (in Mejillones) and 15 (in Concepción and “Isla Madre de Dios”) (Table 1). At most sampling areas, floating macroalgae were collected between 5 to 50 km out from the coast, except for “Isla Madre de Dios” where macroalgae were sampled 2 to 4 km off the mouth of a large oceanic channel.

TABLE 1

Number of samples of *Macrocystis* spp. and *Durvillaea antarctica*, Sea Surface Temperatures (SST), number of samples with lepadomorph cirriped associates (samples w/*Lepas*) and relative percentage of adult barnacles versus cyprids by locality. Samples with *Lepas* include samples only with cyprids larvae in parenthesis samples with adult *Lepas*

Temperatura superficial del mar (SST), número de muestras de *Macrocystis* spp. y *Durvillaea antarctica*, número de muestras que presentaban cirripedios lepadomorfos asociados (samples w/*Lepas*) y porcentaje relativo de cirripedios adultos versus cypris recién asentadas por localidad. Muestras con *Lepas* incluye muestras solo con larvas cypris, en paréntesis muestras con *Lepas* adultas identificables

Site	Latitude	SST (°C) Mean ± SD	Samples of <i>Macrocystis</i> spp.	Samples of <i>D. antarctica</i>	Samples w/ <i>Lepas</i>	Total <i>Lepas</i>	Total cyprids	Percentage of cyprids of <i>Lepas</i>
Arica	18° S	21.1 ± 2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iquique	20° S	19.4 ± 2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mejillones	23° S	21.2 ± 1.9	6	-	6	3,313	1,441	30.3
Caldera	27° S	18.8 ± 2.0	7	-	7	12,569	783	5.9
Coquimbo	29° S	16.7 ± 1.0	9	1	8 (2)	18	1,063	98.3
San Antonio	33° S	18.2 ± 1.0	6	6	12 (10)	7,197	8,171	53.2
Concepción	36° S	14.5 ± 0.9	11	4	15 (13)	33,286	13,151	28.3
Ancud	41° S	13.2 ± 0.5	6	5	11	9,949	8,061	44.8
Isla Madre de Dios	50° S	9.2	5	10	9 (5)	91	230	71.7

When floating macroalgae were encountered, randomly selected macroalgae were collected with the aid of a dip net (ring diameter $r = 60$ cm, mesh size of funnel = 3 mm, mesh size of cod end = 0.5 mm, see Hinojosa et al. 2003¹). We collected individual algal patches < 60 cm diameter, directly from the vessel. In the case of algal patches > 2 m diameter, a diver cut random samples from the whole patch that were immediately placed in the mesh bag (0.5 mm mesh). All samples were placed in plastic bags and preserved in 5 % formalin. In the laboratory, samples were rinsed thoroughly with freshwater over a sieve (0.25 mm), and all epibionts, including goose barnacles, were carefully removed. Barnacles were transferred to 70 % alcohol and later identified under a dissecting microscope. Total abundance (number of individuals) per sample was recorded in order to calculate the relative abundance (in percentage). Herein, we present relative proportions rather than absolute values (abundance per gram of macroalgae) because the abundances of goose barnacles is influenced by the floating time of macroalgae. The relative abundances of goose barnacles associated with *Macrocystis* spp. and *Durvillaea antarctica* samples were treated separately in order to account for the possibility of a species-specific association (one species of *Lepas* settling preferentially on either species of macroalgae).

In order to examine the latitudinal distribution pattern of the studied goose barnacles, we conducted a non-metric multidimensional scaling ordination (nMDS; Field et al. 1982, Clarke 1993) using the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity measure of relative species abundance on each of the two species of floating algae. Since the comparative analysis revealed no significant differences in the composition of *Lepas* spp. between the two algal species (see below), we pooled all samples to calculate relative abundance per locality for purposes of graphic presentation.

RESULTS

The majority of the collected macroalgae harbored barnacles of the family Lepadidae (goose barnacles). The lowest percentage of samples with goose barnacles was found near Isla Madre de Dios (60.0 %, Table 1). In total, 67.0 % of the goose barnacles were identified to species. All others were noted as cyprids since calcareous plates were missing. The relative percentage of cyprids was highest in the sampling area off Coquimbo (98.4 %, Table 1). In total, four species of goose barnacles associated to floating macroalgae were identified, for which a brief morphological description is presented in the following. The quantity and deposition number for the voucher specimens sent to the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Chile (MNHN) is noted following the description of each species.

Description of the goose barnacles from the Chilean Pacific coast

In general the species of the family Lepadidae possess a capitulum covered by five calcareous plates and a naked peduncle. Most species feature one or more characteristic filamentary appendages on or near the pedicel of the first cirrus (Fig. 1). All species represented herein can be distinguished using the relationship, form and texture of these plates as well as by the number and the relative length of the filamentary appendages (Fig. 1 and 3).

Lepas anatifera Linnaeus, 1767

General description: the carina is generally smooth or sometimes barbed, usually sharply bifurcated near the basal umbo; scutum is smooth, sometimes with concentric rays radiating up from the umbo; right scutum with one internal umbonal tooth, independent of developmental status although some individuals have a more pronounced than others; tergum is a little convex and obliquely quadrangular (Darwin 1852, Newman & Ross 1971) (Fig. 2A). With two filamentary appendages on each side of the body, a short one near the basis of the first cirrus and a large one nearby on the prosoma (Fig. 3A). *Lepas anatifera* shows a great similarity with *L. australis*. However, it

¹ HINOJOSA I, ER GONZÁLEZ, P UGALDE, N VALDIVIA, E MACAYA & M THIEL (2003) Distribución y abundancia de macroalgas flotando a la deriva y su fauna peracárida asociada a en los canales de la XI Región, Chile. Resultados crucero CIMAR 8 fiordos: 109-120. Comité Oceanográfico Nacional, Chile.

can be distinguished from the latter by three main characteristics: (1) the presence of a single internal umbonal tooth on the right scutum, (2) the form of the carina is more tapered and shows bifurcation on the base and (3) the filamentary appendage of the prosoma is relatively large (relationship between length of scutum and filamentary appendage differs significantly between *L. anatifera* and *L. australis*; $F = 62.286$; $DF = 1,20$; $P < 0.001$, Fig. 3). Additionally, this filamentary

appendage is comparatively more conspicuous in *L. anatifera* than in *L. australis*.

Inhabited substrata: *Lepas anatifera* has been found associated with diverse animals and floating objects such as e.g., macroalgae (Hobday 2000b), bottles (Young 1990), boats, buoys (Nilsson-Cantell 1957), wood (Minchin 1996), turtles (Kitsos et al. 2003) and even fish (Zevina & Memmi 1981). Voucher specimens, ten individuals deposited in the MNHN of Chile: MNHNCL CIRR - N°11548.

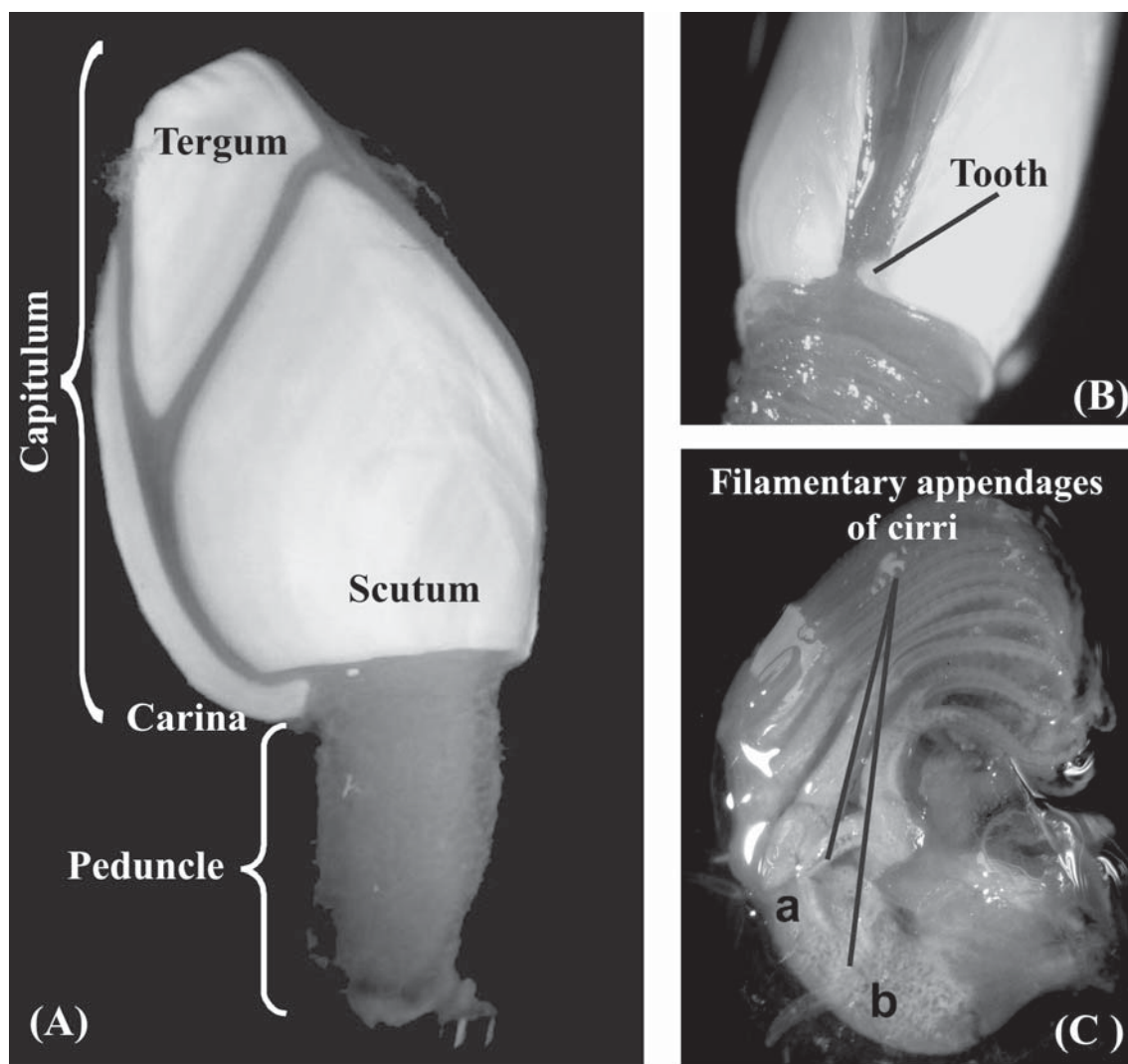


Fig. 1: Characteristics of *Lepas* spp.: (A) body divisions and calcareous plates referred to in the text, (B) Internal umbonal tooth of scutum, and (C) Filamentary appendages: (a) of the coxa of cirrus I and (b) the prosoma.

Características de *Lepas* spp.: (A) división del cuerpo y placas calcáreas indicadas en el texto, (B) Diente umbonal interno del scutum, (C) Apéndices filamentosos de los cirros: (a) apéndice de la coxa del primer cirro y (b) apéndice del prosoma.

Lepas australis Darwin, 1852

General description: the carina is generally smooth, basal fork often broadly rounded, the apex not extending up between the terga; scutum smooth and flat, triangular but can be also quadrangular, both scuta have an internal umbonal tooth, the size of the teeth is variable and independent from the developmental status of individuals; Tergum, triangular, smooth and sometimes convex (Fig. 2B) (Darwin 1852, Newman & Ross 1971, Arnaud 1973, Foster 1978). With two filamentary appendages on each side of the body; one is located at the base of the first cirrus and the other near the prosoma. As noted above, this species is very similar to *L. anatifera*. However, *L. australis* generally has an internal umbonal tooth on each scutum, the carina is wider and often proportionately shorter, and the filamentary appendage on each side of the prosoma is comparatively short (Darwin 1852, Foster 1978) (Fig. 3).

Inhabited substrata: this species has been reported on floating macroalgae (Darwin 1852, Nilsson-Cantell 1957, Arnaud 1973, Zevina & Memmi 1981, Helmuth et al. 1994), volcanic pumice (Newman & Ross 1971), plastics (Barnes & Milner 2005) and on marine sea elephants (*Mirounga leonina*, Arnbom & Lundberg 1995, Barnes et al. 2004). Voucher specimens, ten individuals deposited in the MNHN of Chile: MNHNCL CIRR - N°11549.

Lepas pectinata Spengler, 1793

General description: the upper part of the carina is wide and gets slowly narrower bifurcating at the end, generally barbed; scutum almost triangular with radial furrows, often with spines; the right scutum with internal umbonal tooth; tergum almost triangular, radial furrowed, often with spines; both terga with a visible notch to receive the apex of the scutum; no space between scutum and tergum (Darwin 1852, Foster 1978, Young 1990) (Fig. 2C). Filamentary appendages reduced to a small protuberance at the base of the first cirrus.

Inhabited substrata: mainly associated with macroalgae and floating objects e.g. boats, buoys (Tsikhon-Lukanina et al. 1986), wood (Young 1990), tar pellets, plastics and volcanic pumice (Minchin 1996). Voucher specimens, ten individuals deposited in the MNHN of Chile: MNHNCL CIRR - N°11550.

Dosima fascicularis (Ellis & Solander, 1786)

General description: the genus *Dosima* can be easily distinguished from the genus *Lepas* by the distinct angle formed at the sub-central umbo of the carina, and the very thin and brittle plates (Young 1990). During its development this species changes considerably in form; carina smooth and thin, the form is very different from the previous species, the base is almost round and not imbedded in the membrane, in the medium part (umbo) with an angle of ~100 degrees; scutum smooth and thin, also with a very different form as in comparison to all other species, it is separated from the other plates, no umbonal tooth is present; tergum is smooth and thin, with three angles, also flat (Darwin 1852, Newman & Ross 1971, Foster 1978, Young 1990) (Fig. 2D). Five filamentary appendages located at the base of the cirri on each side of the body.

Inhabited substrata: *Dosima fascicularis* is mainly found associated on small plastic fragments and tar pellets (Minchin 1996) or simply without substrate (Zevina & Memmi 1981). The species gains buoyancy due to the secretion of gas bubbles into a foam-float at the base of the peduncle (Darwin 1852, Boetius 1952-1953, Newman & Ross 1971, Zevina & Memmi 1981, Minchin 1996). Voucher specimens, two individuals deposited in the MNHN of Chile: MNHNCL CIRR - N°11551.

Distribution of goose barnacles along the Chilean Pacific coast

We found a similar faunal composition of goose barnacles on the two species of floating macroalgae (*Macrocystis* spp. and *Durvillaea antarctica*) from the respective sampling areas. The total abundances of *Lepas* spp. were similar on the two collected macroalgae with the highest abundances being found at Concepción (Table 2). Lowest total abundances were recorded in Coquimbo and Isla Madre de Dios (Table 2). A distinct distribution pattern of the assemblages of goose barnacles was observed along the Chilean coast, showing a strong break between San Antonio and Concepción (Fig. 4). In both areas, the relative abundances of barnacles growing on *Durvillaea antarctica* showed similarities with that on *Macrocystis* spp. in the sampling areas immediately to the north, which contrasts with the

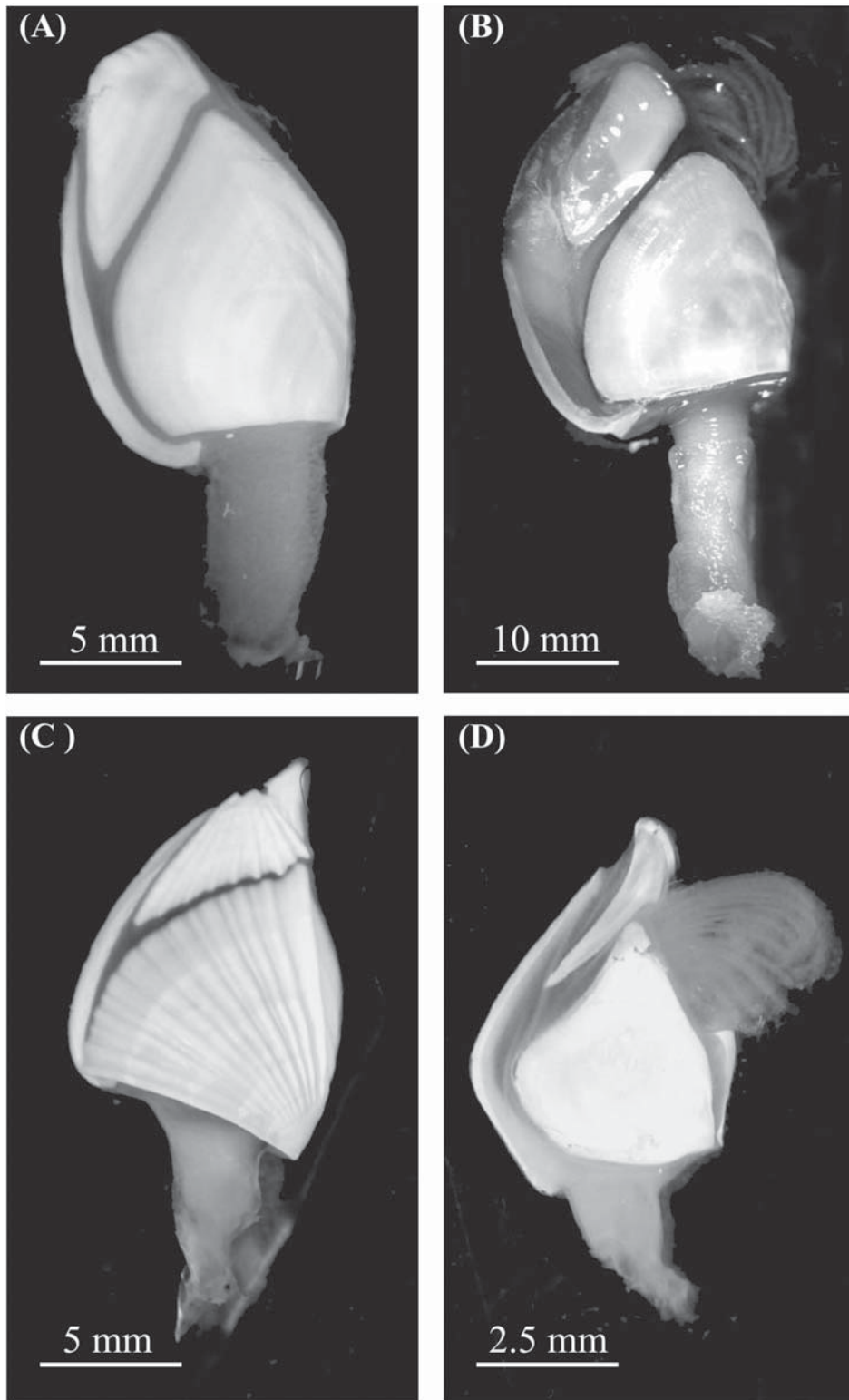


Fig. 2: Images of the four species found associated with floating seaweed from the study area: (A) *Lepas anatifera*, (B) *Lepas australis*, (C) *Lepas pectinata*, and (D) *Dosima fascicularis*.

Fotografía de las cuatro especies encontradas asociadas a macroalgas flotando a la deriva en el área de estudio. (A) *Lepas anatifera*, (B) *Lepas australis*, (C) *Lepas pectinata* y (D) *Dosima fascicularis*.

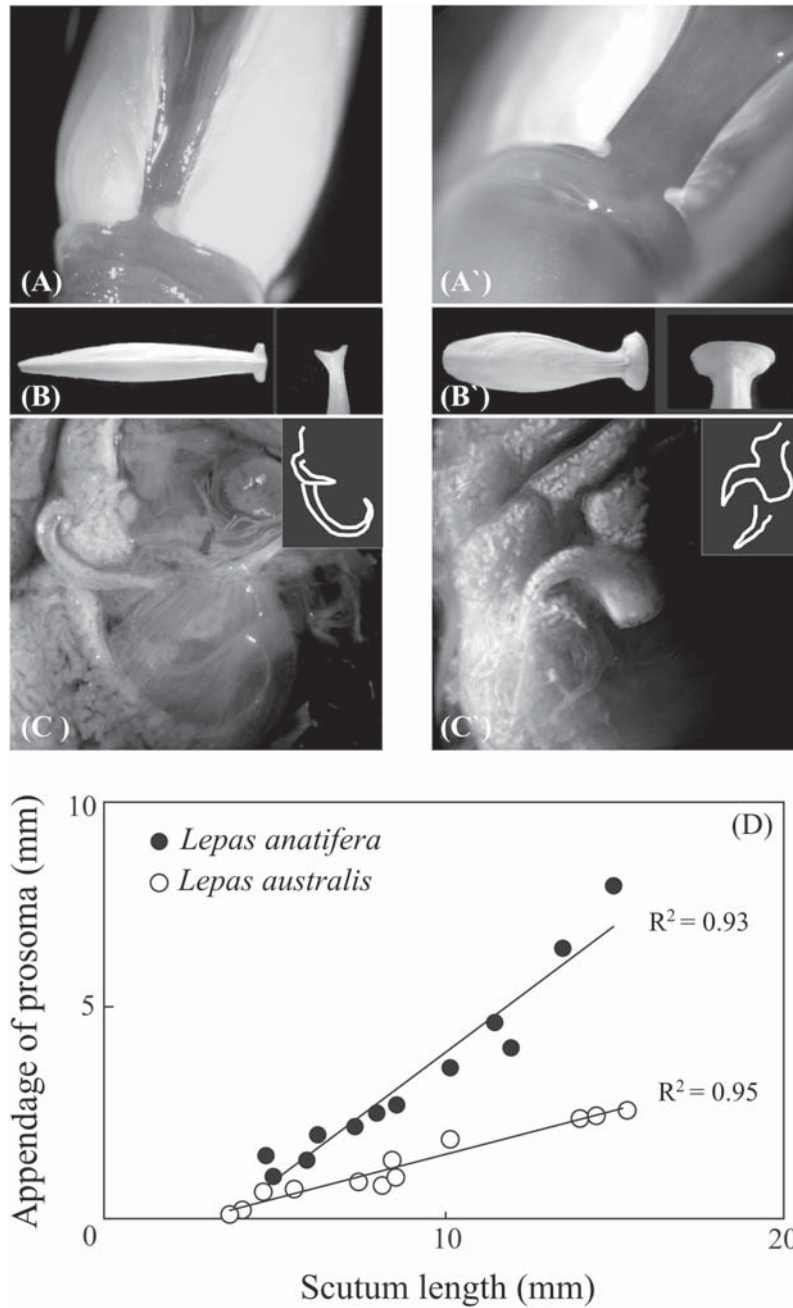


Fig. 3: Images showing the main differences between *Lepas anatifera* and *Lepas australis*: (A and A'), internal umbonal teeth of the scutum, respectively, (B and B') Shape of the carina and details of its base, respectively, (C and C') Filamentary appendages of cirrus I and the prosoma, respectively, and (D) Regressions involving the relationship between the lengths of the scutum and of the filamentary appendages of the prosoma for each species ($F = 138.4$, $DF = 1,10$, $P < 0.001$ for *L. anatifera* and $F = 208.8$, $DF = 1,10$, $P < 0.001$ for *L. australis*; for each regression analysis; slopes are significantly different, $F = 62.286$, $DF = 1,20$, $P < 0.001$).

Fotografías y gráfico de las principales diferencias entre *Lepas anatifera* y *Lepas australis*: (A y A') Diente umbonal interno del o los scutum respectivamente. (B y B') Forma de la carina y detalle de su base, respectivamente. (C y C') Apéndices de los cirros y esquema de los mismos respectivamente. (D) Análisis de regresión entre la longitud del scutum y longitud del apéndice del prosoma para cada una de las especies de *Lepas* ($F = 138,4$; $GL = 1,10$; $P < 0,001$ para *L. anatifera* y $F = 208,8$; $GL = 1,10$; $P < 0,001$ para *L. australis*; para cada análisis de regresión; las pendientes son significativamente diferentes $F = 62,286$; $DF = 1,20$; $P < 0,001$).

TABLE 2

Total abundance of different *Lepas* spp. species associated with macroalgae *Macrocystis* spp. y *Durvillaea antarctica* in each sampling area

Abundancia total de las distintas especies de *Lepas* spp. asociadas a las macroalgas *Macrocystis* spp. y *Durvillaea antarctica* en cada localidad muestreada

Sampling area	<i>Lepas anatifera</i>		<i>Lepas pectinata</i>		<i>Lepas australis</i>	
	<i>Macrocystis</i> spp.	<i>D. antarctica</i>	<i>Macrocystis</i> spp.	<i>D. antarctica</i>	<i>Macrocystis</i> spp.	<i>D. antarctica</i>
Mejillones	3,176	-	137	-	0	-
Caldera	10,025	-	2,544	-	0	-
Coquimbo	5	0	13	0	0	0
San Antonio	374	867	3,901	1,988	67	0
Concepción	0	0	6,700	5,487	15,905	5,194
Ancud	0	0	639	58	7,975	1,277
Isla Madre de Dios	0	0	0	0	51	40

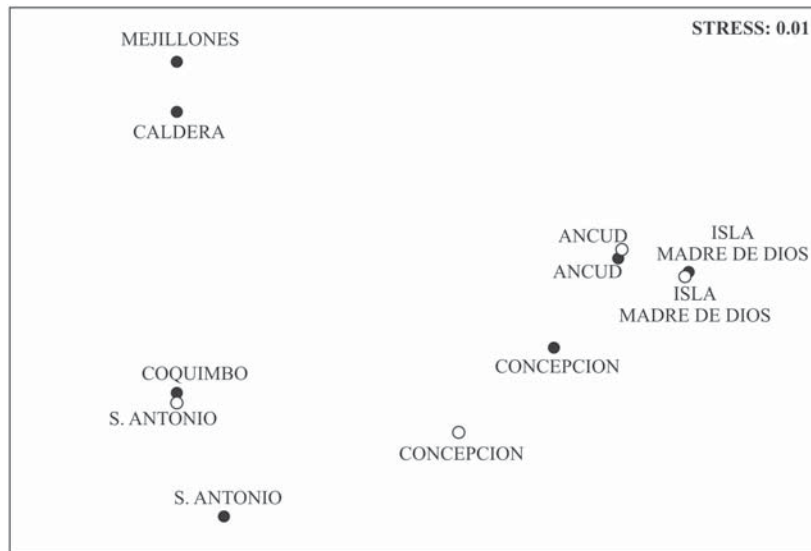


Fig. 4: nMDS results for comparisons of relative abundances of *Lepas* spp. species for each localities associated with *Macrocystis* spp. (black dots) and *Durvillaea antarctica* (gray dots).

Prueba nMDS para la abundancias relativas de las especies de *Lepas* spp. en cada localidad asociadas tanto a macroalgas *Macrocystis* spp. (círculos negros) y *Durvillaea antarctica* (círculos grises).

southern sampling areas where no differences in the barnacle assemblages from both algal species were observed.

Lepas anatifera was mainly distributed in the northern region of the study area, with highest relative abundances in Mejillones (23° S) and Caldera (27° S) of 95.9 and 79.6 %, respectively, but declining in abundance before dropping out at 33° S (Fig. 5). In both locations of abundance, the average SST fluctuated between 18.8 and

21.2 °C (Table 1). In contrast, *L. australis* showed a southern distribution, with declining abundances from “Isla Madre de Dios” (50° S, 100 %) north to Ancud (41° S, 92.7 %) and Concepción (36° S, 63.8 %), before dropping out at ~33° S (see Fig. 5) where the average SST fluctuated between 9.6 and 14.5 °C (Table 1). *Lepas pectinata* was encountered at all sampling areas except for “Isla Madre de Dios”, with the highest relative abundance in the central region,

off Coquimbo (29° S, 72.2 %) and San Antonio (33° S, 81.8 %) (Fig. 5), where the average SST varied between 16.7 and 18.2 °C (Table 1). *Dosima fascicularis* found herein is the first definite record for the SE-Pacific coast. This species was only detected at two sampling areas, namely Caldera (27° S, 0.2 %, 27 individuals) and San Antonio (33° S, 0.01 %, only one individual). In general, in the present study we identify a northern zone dominated by *L. anatifera*, a central zone where *L. pectinata* was most abundant and a southern zone where *L. australis* showed the highest relative abundance.

The described distribution pattern of *Lepas* spp. along the Chilean coast fits well with the global distribution of the studied species (Fig. 6). In general, we found *L. anatifera* in highest proportion in warm waters corresponding to their general distribution in tropical and subtropical waters. In contrast, *L. australis* was found primarily in colder waters, which fits the reported pattern of this species in subantarctic water masses. *Lepas pectinata* was found in waters with intermediate SST, matching the published distributional records of this species (Fig. 6).

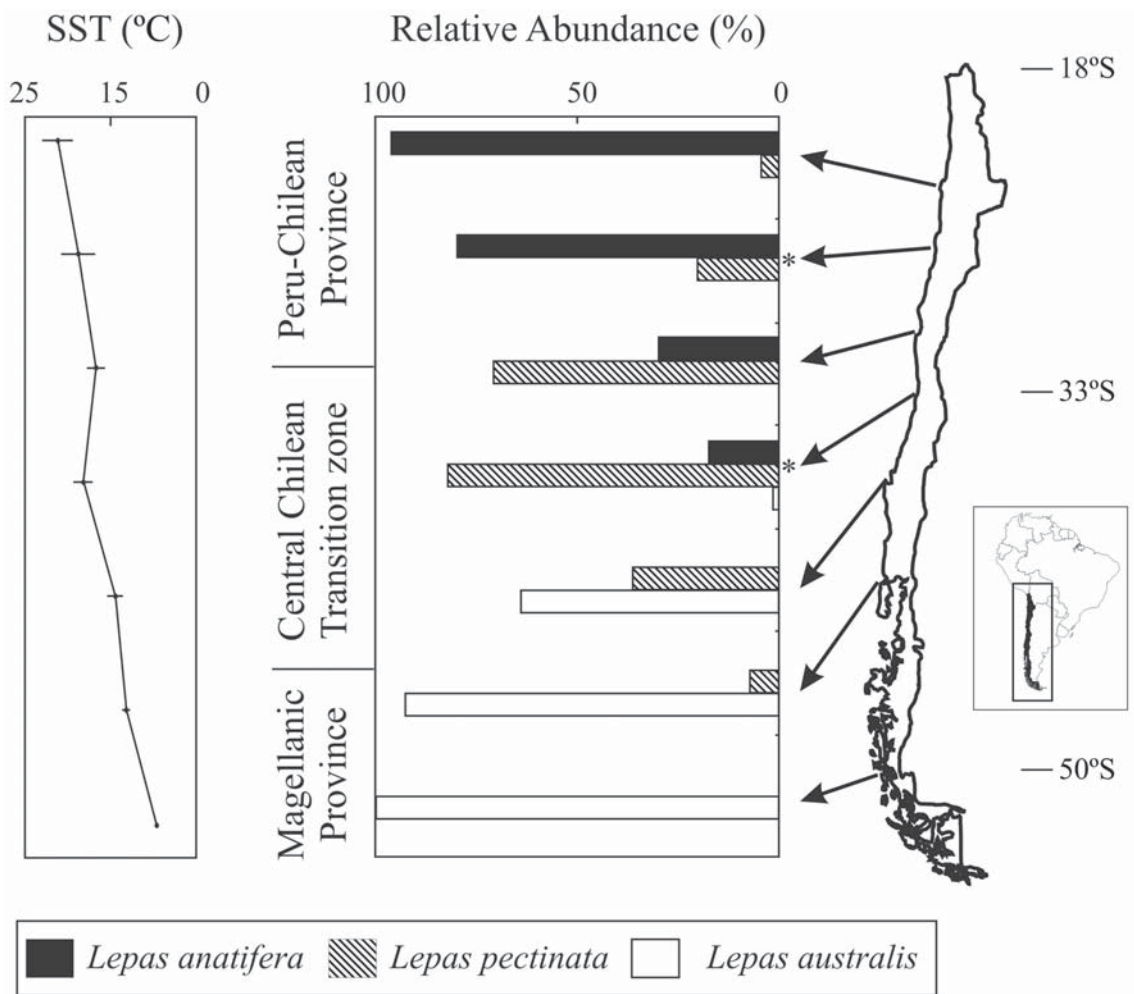


Fig. 5: Relative abundances of the different species of *Lepas* spp. and sea surface temperatures along the south east Pacific coast of Chile; (*) indicates the localities where *Dosima fascicularis* was found.

Abundancia relativa de las diferentes especies de *Lepas* spp. y temperatura superficial del mar a lo largo de la costa sur este del océano Pacífico, Chile; (*) indica las localidades donde se encontró *Dosima fascicularis*.

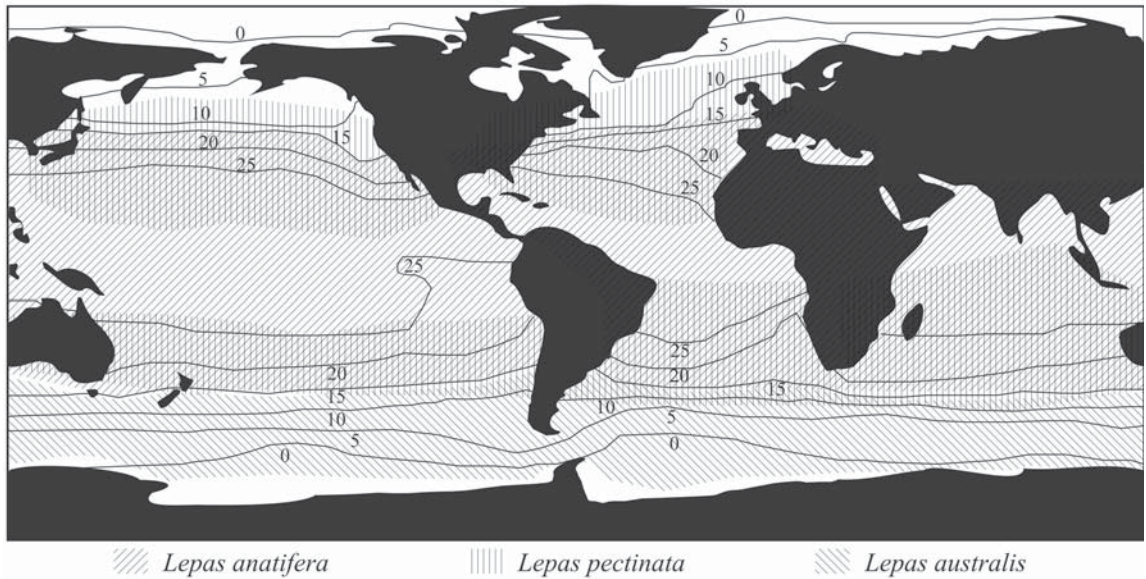


Fig. 6: Global distribution of the principal species of *Lepas* spp. found along the Chilean Pacific coast (distribution along the south east Pacific based on the present study). Lines and numbers represent SST isotherms. Information of the global distribution of *Lepas* spp. based on: Darwin (1852), Nilsson-Cantell (1938), Daniel (1955), Nilsson-Cantell (1957), Patel (1959), Gudmundsson & Ingólfsson (1967), Newman & Ross (1971), Newman (1972), Foster (1978), Zevina & Memmi (1981), Young (1990), Il'in (1992), and Kitsos et al. (2003).

Distribución global de las principales especies de *Lepas* spp. encontradas en las costa chilena (distribución en el Pacífico SE basado en el presente estudio). Las líneas representan isotermas. La información de la distribución geográfica de las especies de *Lepas* spp. contenida en: Darwin (1852), Nilsson-Cantell (1938), Daniel (1955), Nilsson-Cantell (1957), Patel (1959), Gudmundsson & Ingólfsson (1967), Newman & Ross (1971), Newman (1972), Foster (1978), Zevina & Memmi (1981), Young (1990), Il'in (1992), y Kitsos et al. (2003).

DISCUSSION

Pelagic barnacles along the south east Pacific coast of Chile

There exist only a few studies that examine the presence of pelagic barnacles along the Chilean coast. In a review of the barnacles of Chile, Nilsson-Cantell (1957) reported three species of pelagic barnacles from the family Lepadidae; namely, *Lepas anatifera*, *L. pectinata* and *L. australis*. In a previous study, this author had already reported these species for the Islands "Juan Fernández" (Nilsson-Cantell 1929), suggesting they were the three most common lepadid species in Chilean waters. Memmi (1980) described what he considered a new species, *Lepas annabellae*, from the Chilean coast (Antofagasta, 23°19' S, 71°01' W). While it shows certain similarities with previously described varieties of *L. australis*, according to the author it does not

present internal umbonal teeth on the scuta. Since the description of *L. annabellae* is only based on a single report of seven individuals, which were found stranded on the shore, the status of this species for the Chilean coast must be considered as uncertain.

In the present study four species of pelagic barnacles from the family Lepadidae were found on floating macroalgae (*Lepas anatifera*, *L. pectinata*, *L. australis*, and *Dosima fascicularis*). While the first three species were very common and had been previously reported (Nilsson-Cantell 1929, 1957), *D. fascicularis* is reported herein for the first time for the Chilean Pacific coast (see Newman & Ross 1971 for a record near Cape Horn). This species was found in low abundances and only at two localities. Several authors mentioned that *D. fascicularis* is commonly associated with small plastic fragments (Boetius 1952-1953, Cheng & Lewin 1976, Zevina & Memmi 1981, Minchin 1996). Considering that the examined substrata

in the present study were exclusively floating macroalgae, it could be possible that the abundance of *D. fascicularis* was underestimated, but it also cannot be ruled out that this species has recently increased in abundance, because of increasing availability of attachment substrata. Floating plastic fragments are abundant in the oceans and the high floating property of these items may favor dispersal of *D. fascicularis* and possibly of other species (Minchin 1996, Thiel et al. 2003, Barnes & Milner 2005, Thiel & Gutow 2005).

Floating *Macrocystis* spp. and *Durvillaea antarctica* with associated populations of goose barnacles may serve as a good indicator for local supply of their larvae because the floating period of these macroalgae is sufficiently long for larval settlement and growth (Skerman 1958, Green et al. 1994), but may not permit long distance dispersal of adults. In contrast, substrata that have the potential to remain afloat for long time periods (months or years) such as plastic litter or buoys, would have the chance to be dispersed to distant sites and thus far away from the place where initial settlement occurred. Thus, populations of goose barnacles on floating macroalgae may be a good indicator for local larval supply, whereas individuals on plastics (e.g., Barnes & Milner 2005) and volcanic pumice (e.g., Bryan et al. 2004) may rather indicate distant larval pools.

Distribution of goose barnacles along the Chilean Pacific coast

Barnacles of the genus *Lepas* are reported to be widely distributed in the world's oceans, but most species have an optimum temperature range favoring reproduction and larval development (Fig. 6). Green et al. (1994) revealed that *L. anatifera* from the North Atlantic developed reproductive organs within ~120 days after settlement at SST between 10.2 to 18.4 °C. The reproductive rates observed by these authors were low, possibly because penis activity is limited at temperatures < 19 °C SST (Patel 1959). Evans (1958) showed that at temperatures of ~ 25 °C this species can reach sexual maturity within ~ 30 days. Zevina & Memmi (1981) mentioned that *L. australis* can be found in warmer waters, but the optimal water temperature for reproduction is between 5-15 °C. In the Atlantic, *Lepas pectinata* is

abundant at temperatures between 10-27 °C and larvae are typically found in waters higher than 16 °C (Moyse 1987).

Herein a clear SST gradient was found along Chilean coast and the encountered goose barnacles were differentially distributed within particular temperature ranges. *Lepas anatifera* declined in abundance between 21.2 and 18.2 °C, while *L. australis* increased in abundance below 18.2 °C. *Lepas pectinata* was not found at temperatures < 13.2 °C, was most abundant at temperatures between 16.7 and 18.2 °C, and declined at higher temperatures (Fig. 5, Table 1). The possible reason for the low abundances outside the temperature-specific range is probably due to these species being unable to settle, grow and/or reproduce successfully under sub-optimal conditions. As an alternative explanation, Moyse (1987) suggested that the spines of the larval states (nauplii) of *Lepas* spp. may be correlated with the different viscosity of water masses: the relatively shorter and vestigial spines of *L. pectinata* and *L. australis* respectively, may be correlated with the higher viscosity of the colder waters inhabited by these species, while the large spines of *L. anatifera* may be correlated with the lower viscosity of warm waters. Therefore, it can be expected that the larvae of these three barnacles show highest abundances in their respective species-specific SST range and are restricted to the water masses to which they are morphologically as well as physiologically adapted.

Contribution to the understanding of the biogeography of the south east Pacific

The present study only considers the distribution of three principal species of pelagic barnacles. Even though this is a very limited number of species for a biogeography study, the distribution of these three species revealed a clear separation of three zoogeographic zones, similar to those reported for littoral organisms. While the low number of species included in this study could be considered a drawback, it allows on the other hand to link knowledge of the biology of each species to the water masses in which it was found. The warm-water species, *L. anatifera*, was not found south of 33° S in the Peruvian-Chilean Province, and the West Wind Drift species, *L. australis*, was

not detected north of 33° S in the Magellanic Province, whereas *Lepas pectinata* was most abundant in the Chilean Transition Zone where these two provinces overlap. A study by Foster (1978), including the lepadids from New Zealand, revealed a similar northern distribution for *L. anatifera* and *L. pectinata*, whereas *L. australis* was only encountered south of 39° S. This author noted the overlap of these species in a central region and suggested that the surface currents and the prevailing SST were responsible for maintaining the distribution pattern observed, because the surface currents drive the distribution of floating substrata and SST directly affects the life cycle of individuals or restricts larval distribution. This together with the suggestion by Moyse (1987) on temperature-specific adaptations of larvae, indicates that indeed the larval states of these goose barnacles are restricted to certain water masses.

The distribution pattern reported herein for goose barnacles closely matches that of littoral benthic fauna. The species-specific SST association of goose barnacles suggests that a clear oceanographic influence exists along Chilean coast, and that SST itself and its influence on planktonic stages is the principal causal factor for the biogeographic patterns observed along the south east Pacific coast. For littoral mollusks, Rivadeneira & Fernández (2005) found that 20 % of the analyzed species changed their distributional range in accordance with changing gradients of SST. Astorga et al. (2003) also demonstrated that the pattern of SST is inversely proportional to the diversity of decapod crustaceans and argued that SST may affect the larval phases of these species. While these considerations provide support for the direct influence of SST (possibly via planktonic stages), we can not exclude the possibility that other factors modulate the observed distribution pattern (e.g., Knox 1960, Briggs 1995). Lancellotti & Vásquez (1999) also revealed a link between SST and the distribution of benthic species, but they additionally mentioned that freshwater influx along the Chilean coast exhibits a clear latitudinal gradient, which may also influence the distribution of benthic species (highest amount of freshwater towards the south). Zvyagintsev & Mikhajlov (1985) reported a massive death of *L. anatifera* at decreasing salinity, which could also contribute

to the distributional patterns observed herein. Larvae of parasitic barnacles exhibit varying developmental times at different salinities (Kashenko & Korn 2002), suggesting that salinity may also affect the distribution of goose barnacles.

While most authors agree on three geographical zones along the Chilean coast (e.g., Knox 1960, Lancellotti & Vásquez 1999, 2000), the exact limits of these zones can vary substantially (see Camus 2001), possibly due to the effects of “El Niño-Southern Oscillation” ENSO (Thiel 2002, Escribano et al. 2003). In the present study, we found all four species of goose barnacles near San Antonio (33° S) in the center of the transition zone, while at the other sampling areas only one or two of these species were observed. Thus, our results agree with previous biogeographic studies of benthic organisms, which report a peak of species richness in the transition zone (Lancellotti & Vásquez 2000, Ojeda et al. 2000, Camus 2001, Rivadeneira et al. 2002, Thiel 2002, Hernández et al. 2005).

CONCLUSIONS

Along the south east Pacific coast there appears to exist a close match between the biogeography of planktonic and of littoral benthic organisms (Fagetti 1968, Antezana 1981, Ojeda et al. 2000, Camus 2001, Thiel 2002, Escribano et al. 2003, this study), just as there is in the north east Pacific (Newman 1979). Herein, we observed that the oceanographic conditions, mainly SST, are shaping the distribution of pelagic goose barnacles. This supports the hypothesis that the dispersal of organisms and their distribution along the Chilean Pacific coast is modulated by specific oceanographic conditions (SST, see Briggs 1995). Based on these considerations we suggest that the temporal distribution patterns of pelagic organisms and larvae may be highly variable in the central transition zone, in accordance with interannual variations in oceanographic conditions (e.g., ENSO). Studying interannual variability in the latitudinal distribution of the pelagic biota may contribute to a better understanding of the biogeographic limits along the Chilean coast.

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