

# Isle of Man

## Non Native Marine Invasive Species

### Alert

## Darwin's Barnacle

**Scientific Name:** *Austrominius modestus*

**Habitat:** Found at all levels of the shore but is more common mid-shore and may extend to shallow sublittoral.

**Native to:** Australasia

**Key ID Features:** It attaches to a wide variety of substrata including rocks, stones, shells, other crustaceans and artificial structures including ships. It is more tolerant of turbidity and reduced salinity than *Semibalanus balanoides* and *Chthamalus* species and is found in estuaries as well as on open coasts where the wave exposure is not high. *Elminius modestus* is a small barnacle, 5-10 mm in diameter, characterised by having only 4 calcified shell plates. The body shape is low and conical with a large diamond shaped opercular aperture. In young barnacles the shell plates are smooth and the bottom margin of each has an indentation in the centre. The shell plates of older individuals have marked vertical ridges that give the barnacle an irregular, roughly circular margin. The young are opalescent greyish white in colour while the adults become drab greyish brown and eroded. *Elminius modestus* not only competes with endemic British species, particularly *Balanus balanoides*, but has colonized some sheltered and estuarine habitats not previously inhabited by them.



If you see this species please record the following details:

- Location of species
- Date and time of sighting
- Depth of species
- Photographs taken ?

and report to Tony Glen ([searchiom@hotmail.com](mailto:searchiom@hotmail.com)) or Philippa Tomlinson ([philippa.tomlinson@gov.im](mailto:philippa.tomlinson@gov.im)).

