

# Population dynamics of the intertidal barnacle *Semibalanus balanoides* at three European locations: spatial scales of variability

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**ABSTRACT:** Spatial variability in the population dynamics of the intertidal acorn barnacle *Semibalanus balanoides* was investigated using a hierarchical sampling programme. Variability in a number of population parameters (size distribution, density, % cover, absolute growth and instantaneous mortality) was determined separately for new recruits and adults over 3 spatial scales. Three locations, SW Ireland, the Isle of Man and the west coast of Sweden, which cover a large part of the European range of this species, were selected to investigate variability over a large spatial scale (100s of kilometres). Two smaller scales, shore (1000s of metres) and site (10s of metres) nested within each location were also used. In addition, temporal variation over two 6 mo periods was also examined in the Isle of Man and Ireland. Most variability for all population parameters occurred over the largest spatial scale (location). This was a direct result of differences between Sweden and the other 2 locations, the Isle of Man and Ireland, which showed highly similar levels of all population parameters. The population of *S. balanoides* at the Swedish location was characterised by high growth rates, large size, high levels of mortality and a large turnover of bare space. At the spatial scale 'shore', only 1 population parameter, the growth rate of recruits, showed variability. At the smallest scale of 'site', all parameters showed significant variability except growth rate of adults. Calculation of variance components showed that differences between replicates (spatial scale: <0.5 m) accounted for little of the overall variability, in general less than the scales of site and shore. Examination of temporal variability over two 6 mo periods revealed no difference between time periods and no significant interaction between temporal and spatial scales. Thus, there was consistency of spatial variability over time. The potential causes of variability in population parameters of *S. balanoides* at different spatial scales and the implications for future studies are discussed.

**KEY WORDS:** Hierarchical sampling · Intertidal · Population dynamics · *Semibalanus balanoides* · Spatial variation

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## INTRODUCTION

All ecological systems exhibit heterogeneity and patchiness (Levin 1992), and increasingly there is an

appreciation that ecological phenomena need examining across a range of spatial scales (Underwood 1997). In order to understand how communities function, it is first necessary to adequately describe the pattern, using observational studies to identify the scales at which variability occurs. Experimental studies can

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then be designed to investigate the intensities and rates of processes at relevant rather than arbitrary scales (Underwood & Petraitis 1993).

Intertidal benthic communities have been studied extensively and have contributed much to our general understanding of population and community dynamics. Acorn barnacles form an important part of intertidal communities world-wide (Stephenson & Stephenson 1949) and there is an extensive literature on all aspects of their population ecology, including natural levels of mortality (Connell 1961a, 1985, Wetthey 1983, Bertness 1989, Gosselin & Qian 1996), growth rate (Barnes & Powell 1953, Barnes 1955, Crisp & Bourget 1985, Bertness et al. 1991, Sanford et al. 1994), intraspecific competition (Connell 1961a, Bertness 1989), and interactions with other species (barnacles: Connell 1961b; mussels: Lively & Raimondi 1987; limpets: Hawkins 1983, Miller 1989; algae: Menge 1976, Hawkins 1983; predators: Connell 1961a, Johnson et al. 1998). Spatial and temporal variability in settlement and recruitment of barnacles and the consequences of such variation to adult populations have been studied extensively (e.g. Hawkins & Hartnoll 1982, Caffey 1985, Kendall et al. 1985, Pineda 1994, Carroll 1996). In contrast, very little is known regarding spatial variability in adult population dynamics.

Where large environmental differences between sites occur, for example in the comparison of productive sheltered bays with exposed open shores, population dynamics of acorn barnacles can vary dramatically (e.g. Bertness et al. 1991). Even between sites with similar conditions, variability is apparent. Hyder et al. (1998) documented variability in patterns of cover and size of *Semibalanus balanoides* at small (<1 m), meso (100 m) and large (>10 km) scales on exposed shores of north Wales, while Benedetti-Cecchi et al. (2000) showed variability in the growth of *Chthamalus stellatus* in the NW Mediterranean was greatest at the scale of location (100s of kilometres) and at the smallest scale of centimetres. Variability at the scale of metres and 100s of metres was negligible. At very large spatial scales (100s to 1000s of kilometres) genetic variation and physical differences in the environment may both play roles in the population dynamics of benthic species. Large differences at very small scales (<1 m) in the density or cover of intertidal organisms (e.g. Underwood & Chapman 1996, Åberg & Pavia 1997, Hyder et al. 1998) and in processes such as growth and mortality (e.g. Benedetti-Cecchi et al. 2000) are a common observation on rocky shores. Such variability may be caused by a number of factors operating over small spatial scales, including species interactions, substratum heterogeneity and hydrodynamic processes.

In assessing variability in population dynamics of a species it is possible to compare the results of existing

studies from a variety of locations (see for example Crisp & Bourget 1985 for review of studies on growth rate in *Semibalanus balanoides*), but unless data are collected in comparable ways at similar spatial and temporal scales their usefulness in this respect is limited (Underwood & Petraitis 1993). We aimed to determine the spatial scales at which estimates of various population attributes—size distribution, density, % cover, growth and mortality—vary in the intertidal barnacle *S. balanoides*. Specifically we tested the hypothesis that variation is greatest at very small spatial scales (<1 m) and very large scales (100s to 1000s of kilometres). *S. balanoides* is an extremely abundant intertidal barnacle with a wide geographical distribution. It is a boreo-arctic species found on both sides of the north Atlantic, and in Europe it extends over a large latitudinal range from NW Spain (Barnes 1958) to Spitzbergen (Barnes 1957). Three locations—SW Ireland, the Isle of Man and the west coast of Sweden—which cover a large part of this latitudinal range, were selected to investigate variation on a large spatial scale (100s of kilometres). Within each location, 2 further scales were investigated, shores (1000s of metres) and sites (10s of metres). Variance components were used to assess the degree to which differences at very small scales (between replicates) contribute to overall variability. In addition, temporal variation over two 6 mo periods was assessed in order to determine the degree to which spatial variation was temporally consistent.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

**Study locations.** The study covered 2 shores at each of 3 locations: the northern part of the Swedish west coast, close to Tjarnö Marine Biological Laboratory, the south and west coast of the Isle of Man, in the Irish Sea, and the south west coast of Ireland, west of Cork (Fig. 1).

These locations differ in general abiotic conditions. The Swedish area is almost atidal (tidal range 0.3 m), but large irregular sea level changes, from about 0.5 m below to 1.5 m above mean sea level, occur due to changes in air pressure and winds (Johannesson 1989). Large fluctuations in salinity, around a mean of 24, are also common, and in about 1 winter in 4 there are periods when ice covers the sea (Johannesson 1989). In contrast, the Isle of Man and the south west coast of Ireland both experience large tidal ranges of up to 7 and 4.5 m respectively, and have stable fully marine salinities (33 to 34.8).

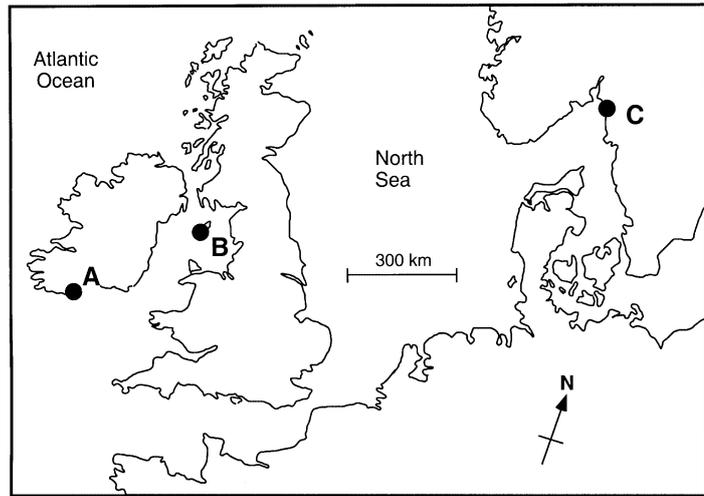
**Sampling design.** Sampling of *Semibalanus balanoides* populations was carried out during 1997 and 1998 using a nested design at the locations described

above. At each location, 2 shores with abundant *S. balanoides* were selected, at least 5 km apart, which were exposed to wave action. Physical and biological descriptions of the shores are given in Lindegarth et al. (2001), Hartnoll & Hawkins (1985), and Power (2000) for the Swedish, Isle of Man and SW Ireland sites respectively. On each shore, 5 sites within the centre of the *S. balanoides* zone were selected at least 10 m apart. All sites were in well-drained areas with an abundance of *S. balanoides*. Steep slopes ( $>45^\circ$ ) and algae-dominated areas were avoided. From this selection of sites, 2 were chosen at random, and at each site 2 randomly located quadrats, between 15 and 50 cm apart, were sampled.

Each survey involved photographing marked quadrats. The precise protocol differed between locations owing to the different characteristics of barnacle populations and different camera systems. At all locations, however, the use of a fixed frame attached to the camera system and a series of holes drilled in the rock allowed exact relocation of the area. In Ireland, a medium format Bronica ETRS camera with 75 mm lens was used, allowing an area of  $25 \times 20$  cm to be photographed at the necessary resolution. Within this area, two  $5 \times 5$  cm quadrats were selected at random when photographs were analysed. In the Isle of Man and Sweden, a 35 mm camera was used to photograph 2 fixed quadrats located randomly within an area of  $0.5 \times 0.5$  m at each site. In the Isle of Man, quadrats were  $5 \times 5$  cm in size. In Sweden, owing to the larger size of *Semibalanus balanoides* there, quadrats measured  $15 \times 15$  cm.

Each quadrat, including a scale bar, was photographed in May/June 1997 using 100 or 200 ASA colour reversal film. Quadrats were photographed again 6 mo later. At the same time, 2 new sites were chosen in the Isle of Man and Ireland and at each site 2 quadrats were photographed. These quadrats were re-photographed 6 mo later in May 1998.

All slides were analysed in Lisbon using image-analysis software (Image Pro Plus, Media Cybernetics, 1996). All *Semibalanus balanoides* individuals were counted and the opercular length measured at the beginning ( $t_0$ ) of each 6 mo period. The presence and size of these individuals was then determined 6 mo later ( $t_6$ ). In this way, density and population structure were calculated at the beginning and end of each 6 mo period. Mortality and individual growth were calculated as a mean daily value over each 6 mo period. The % cover of bare space and of other barnacle species was determined by overlaying a 64-point grid on each slide.



Location	Shores	Position	For description see:
A SW Ireland	Crosshaven	51° 48' N 8° 17' W	Power (2000)
	Castlepark	51° 42' N 8° 31' W	
B Isle of Man	Niarbyl	54° 10' N 4° 45' W	Hartnoll and Hawkins (1985)
	Derbyhaven	54° 50' N 4° 37' W	
C Sweden	Lilleskär	58° 53' N 11° 6' W	Lindegarth et al. (2001)
	Bratte Rödsjär	58° 51' N 11° 4' W	

Fig. 1. Map showing the positions of the 3 sampling locations in north-west Europe. A: SW Ireland; B: Isle of Man; C: Sweden

**Data analysis.** The length frequency distribution of *Semibalanus balanoides* individuals from each quadrat was plotted. From this distribution a distinct size class of new recruits which had settled in spring 1997 could be recognised at  $t_0$  of the first 6 mo period (May/June to November/December 1997) at all locations. Determination of population parameters was carried out separately for recruits (0+) and adults (1+). For the second 6 mo period, all individuals were treated as adults (0.5+). Mean growth rate of barnacles was calculated as increase in opercular length per day, and daily instantaneous mortality rate calculated as:

$$\log_e (N_{t_6}/N_{t_0})/t$$

where  $N_{t_6}/N_{t_0}$  is the proportion of individuals surviving per quadrat, and  $t$  is the number of days between photographs. An estimate of all population parameters was made for each individual quadrat using all barnacles within the quadrat area. The number of barnacles used varied depending on the number present within each quadrat, and for the estimate of growth, the number which survived over the 6 mo sampling period (Table 1).

Population parameters were examined by analysis of variance to determine patterns of spatial and temporal variation. Firstly, all 3 locations were used to examine the spatial scales at which variation in population parameters occurred during the period May/June to

Table 1. *Semibalanus balanoides*. Number of barnacles (adults and recruits) analysed per quadrat for different population parameters over the 2 sampling periods (T1 and T2). For the Isle of Man and Ireland, quadrats were 5 × 5 cm; for Sweden, quadrats were 15 × 15 cm.  
nd: no data

	T1 May/Jun– Nov/Dec 1997		T2 Nov/Dec 1997– May 1998
	Recruits (0+ yr)	Adults (1+ yr)	Adults (0.5+ yr)
<b>Density, size, mortality</b>			
Ireland	36–197	59–87	65–176
Isle of Man	24–112	45–122	50–144
Sweden	84–664	9–141	nd
<b>Growth</b>			
Ireland	28–93	29–62	47–97
Isle of Man	14–64	22–85	39–111
Sweden	5–23	5–18	nd

November/December 1997. The ANOVA model used was a fully nested design with all factors random. The variance components associated with each spatial scale were partitioned and the percentage contribution of each scale to overall variation was determined (Underwood 1997). Secondly, data from the Isle of Man and Ireland were used to examine spatial and temporal variation over a 12 mo period, May 1997 to May 1998. At each shore, at each location, two 6 mo periods were compared; thus the factor time (random) was orthogonal to shore and location. Different sites were used for each 6 mo period, and hence the factor site (random) was nested in the combination of location, shore and time.

Prior to using ANOVA, Cochran's test (Winer 1971) was used to test for heterogeneity of variance and, where necessary, data were transformed. Multiple comparisons of levels within significant factors were made using Student-Newman-Keuls (SNK) tests.

## RESULTS

### Size distribution

Opercular length frequency distributions showed 2 distinct size classes of *Semibalanus balanoides* in May/June 1997 at all locations (Fig. 2), corresponding to new recruits (<2 mo old) and adults (>1 yr old). These size classes in Sweden are more distinct in the frequency distributions for individual quadrats than appears from the combined distribution in Fig. 2. The mean and maximum sizes of recruits in Sweden (2.9 and 5 mm) were far higher than in the Isle of Man (0.8 and 1.3 mm) and Ireland (0.9 and 1.3 mm). Settlement of *S. balanoides* in 1997 occurred earlier in Sweden than at the other 2 locations (Jenkins et al. 2000) such

that at the time of sampling, recruits were at least 2 mo old in Sweden compared to only at least 1 wk in the Isle of Man and Ireland. This difference in timing cannot itself explain the much larger size of recruits in Sweden, since the modal size of recruits in Sweden was similar to that of adults at the 2 more southerly locations. Adult *S. balanoides* could not be separated into year classes at any location despite a large range of opercular lengths. The mean and maximum size of adults was far greater in Sweden than at the other 2 locations. Maximum opercular length of individuals in Sweden was 9.1 mm compared to only 5.5 and 4.4 mm in the Isle of Man and Ireland respectively.

By early winter of 1997 the discrete recruit size class was no longer obvious and total density had decreased markedly, especially in Sweden.

There was little evidence of a bimodal distribution at any location except at Shore 2 in Ireland. As in the May/June distribution, the range and overall size of individuals was far greater in Sweden than in the other 2 locations (Fig. 2).

### Spatial variation in population parameters

Analysis was undertaken separately for new recruits and adults because of inherent differences between them in population variables. The density of adults at the first sampling date in May/June 1997 varied significantly at the spatial scales of location and site (Table 2). Variability among locations was high, with Sweden showing, on average, 10 and 15 times lower density than Ireland and the Isle of Man respectively (Fig. 3). Instantaneous mortality rate varied at the scale of location (mortality was significantly greater in Sweden) and site (Fig. 3, Table 2). Examination of Fig. 3 and the results of SNK tests show that differences between sites occurred at both shores in Sweden but not at the other locations. Mean size and rate of growth of adults were significantly higher in Sweden than at the other locations (Fig. 3, Table 2). The mean opercular length of adults was 6 mm, compared to 2.6 and 2.3 mm in the Isle of Man and Ireland respectively, whilst growth was over 3 times greater in Sweden than at the other locations. There was no significant effect of the spatial scales of shore or site on growth, although there were significant differences in size between sites.

Calculation of variance components showed that the largest spatial scale, location, contributed by far the most variability of all parameters. There was no consistency in the ranking of variance components for the smaller spatial scales. The factor shore contributed

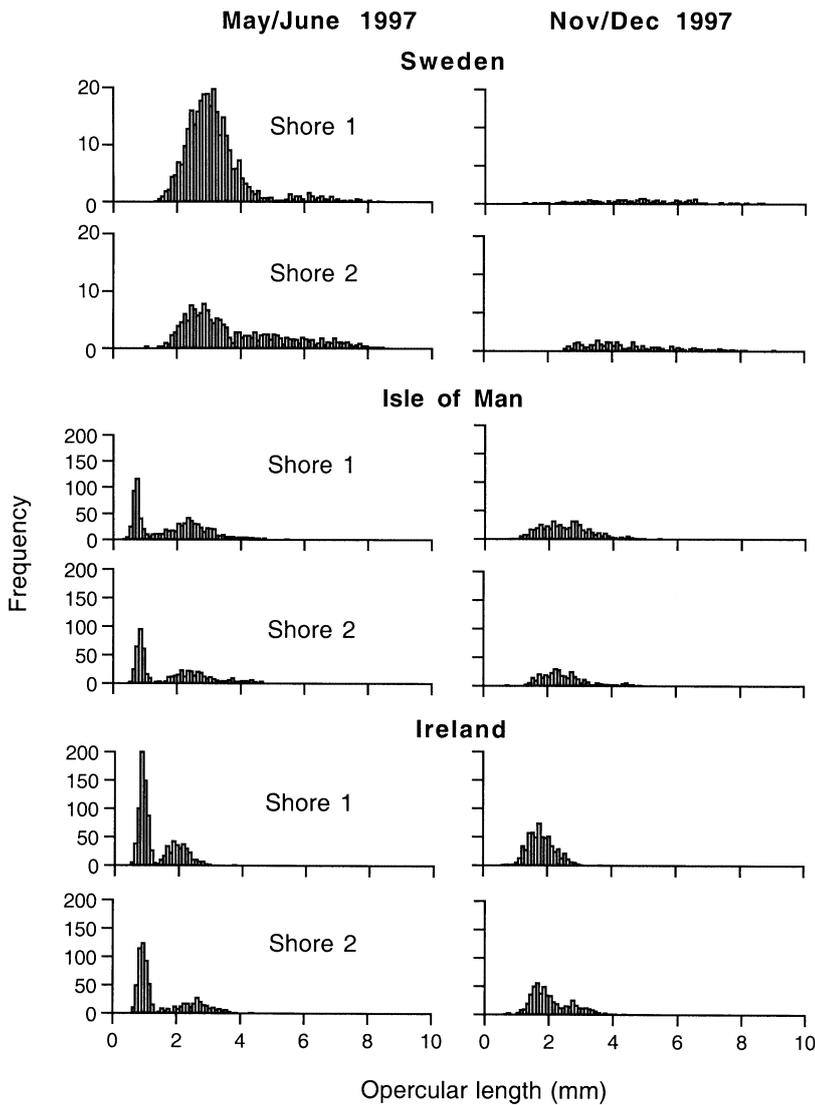


Fig. 2. *Semibalanus balanoides*. Length-frequency histograms for each shore at each location at the start and finish of the first 6 mo period. Each histogram represents the total from four  $5 \times 5$  cm quadrats. Note different y-axis scale for Swedish shores

very little to overall variability except in the density of adults, while site explained a large proportion of variability only for adult growth. Differences between replicates accounted for surprisingly little variability for all adult variables.

ANOVA for instantaneous mortality rates of recruits revealed a pattern similar to that shown by adults (Fig. 4). Mortality varied significantly at the spatial scales of location and site (Table 3), although variance components showed that the factor location contributed far less to overall variability than in adults. SNK tests showed that mortality was significantly greater in Sweden than in the other 2 locations. The relatively large amount of variation attributable to the

factor site, shown by analysis of variance components (Table 3), was again predominantly a result of variation between sites in Sweden (SNK tests). However, interestingly, the ranking of sites was not consistent between adults and recruits. In contrast to adults, the growth of recruits was similar at all locations (Fig. 4, Table 3). There was significant variability, however, between shores and between sites. SNK tests showed significant differences between shores in Sweden, and between sites in both Sweden and the Isle of Man. Differences in growth and mortality of recruits between replicates accounted for little of the overall variability (Table 3).

The % cover of *Semibalanus balanoides* in May 1997 ( $t_0$ ) was similar at all 3 locations, although there were significant differences among shores (Table 4, Fig. 5). Six mo later, variability at all spatial scales had increased owing to variability in the population parameters described above. There were significant differences in % cover among shores and sites. Overall, the mean % cover of *S. balanoides* declined from 84 to 24% and from 78 to 71% in Sweden and the Isle of Man respectively over the 6 mo period, while in Ireland mean cover remained constant at 70%.

### Temporal variation

Sampling of different quadrats over 2 separate 6 mo periods (May to November 1997 [Period T1] and November 1997 to May 1998 [T2]) in

the Isle of Man and Ireland allowed the formal comparison of growth and mortality in *Semibalanus balanoides* between these periods, and determination of the potential interaction between spatial and temporal scales. Comparison of different periods within a year in a species with seasonal recruitment means that the age range of individuals will differ. For Period T1, analysis was restricted to adults over 1 yr of age, while T2 individuals in all populations were over 6 mo in age and were all included. For both growth and mortality, spatial and temporal interactions were all non significant, and no difference between time periods could be detected (Table 5, Fig. 6).

Table 2. *Semibalanus balanoides*. ANOVA of 4 population parameters in adult (>1 yr old) barnacles for the period May/June 1997 to November/December 1997 over a range of spatial scales. Density and size of barnacles were determined at  $t_0$  (May/June 1997). Significant values in **bold**

	Source	df	MS	F	p	Variance component	% variance component	
<b>Density</b>	Location	2	18.19	14.61	<b>&lt;0.03</b>	2.12	83.8	
	Transform	Shore (Location)	3	1.25	3.79	>0.07	0.23	9.1
	Ln (x+1)	Site[Shore (Location)]	6	0.33	13.11	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	0.15	5.9
	C = 0.2730	Residual	12	0.03			0.03	1.2
	p > 0.05	Total	23					
<b>Mortality</b>	Location	2	$1.26 \times 10^{-4}$	125.61	<b>&lt;0.01</b>	$1.56 \times 10^{-5}$	76.6	
	Transform	Shore (Location)	3	$1.00 \times 10^{-6}$	0.09	>0.9	0 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>
	None	Site[Shore (Location)]	6	$1.09 \times 10^{-5}$	7.93	<b>&lt;0.01</b>	$4.77 \times 10^{-6}$	21.9
	C = 0.4326	Residual	12	$1.37 \times 10^{-6}$			$1.37 \times 10^{-6}$	6.3
	p > 0.05	Total	23					
<b>Size</b>	Location	2	34.36	96.87	<b>&lt;0.002</b>	4.25	96.2	
	Transform	Shore (Location)	3	0.36	1.44	>0.30	0.03	0.7
	None	Site[Shore (Location)]	6	0.25	12.44	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.12	2.7
	C = 0.4264	Residual	12	0.02			0.02	0.5
	p > 0.05	Total	23					
<b>Growth</b>	Location	2	$1.69 \times 10^{-5}$	30.44	<b>&lt;0.02</b>	$2.04 \times 10^{-6}$	86.6	
	Transform:	Shore (Location)	3	$5.56 \times 10^{-7}$	4.33	>0.05	$1.07 \times 10^{-7}$	4.6
	None	Site[Shore (Location)]	6	$1.29 \times 10^{-7}$	0.61	>0.7	0 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>
	C = 0.5400	Residual	12	$2.10 \times 10^{-7}$			$2.10 \times 10^{-7}$	8.8
	p > 0.05	Total	23					

<sup>a</sup>Negative estimates were set to zero

## DISCUSSION

For all population parameters of *Semibalanus balanoides* estimated, by far the most variability was attributable to the factor location. Benedetti-Cecchi et al. (2000) made a similar conclusion for growth rates in the barnacle *Chthamalus stellatus* over a hierarchy of scales up to 100s of kilometres. Variability in *S. balanoides* populations among locations was a direct result of differences between Sweden and the other 2 locations, the Isle of Man and Ireland, which showed remarkably similar levels of all population variables. The adult population of *S. balanoides* in Sweden was characterised by high growth rates, large size and high levels of mortality. There was a large turnover of bare space in Sweden in contrast to a relatively constant barnacle cover throughout the year on the Isle of Man and in Ireland. In addition, much of the variability at the scales of shore and site were a result of differences at these spatial scales in Sweden.

The distinct difference in the population dynamics in Sweden may be the result of a number of physical factors such as tidal regime, food supply and water temperature. In addition, the level of recruitment and adult density, which was far lower in Sweden than in the Isle of Man or Ireland, may have been one factor causing elevated growth rates. Intense intraspecific competition between crowded barnacles can cause a

severe reduction in growth rate (Crisp 1960). However observations in the Isle of Man and Ireland showed that well-spaced individuals attained far lower growth rates and sizes than in Sweden. It therefore seems unlikely that this factor was important. Food supply (measured as surface concentration of chlorophyll a) showed no distinct difference over the period of study between the Isle of Man and Sweden (unpubl. data). Surface water temperatures may affect growth rates through their influence on the rate of cirral beat (Southward 1955, 1957). Temperatures were higher during the summer months in Sweden, but above those at which maximal cirral beat has been recorded in *Semibalanus balanoides* (Southward 1955). In addition, a comparison of a wide range of studies which have quantified growth in *S. balanoides* on European shores (Runnström 1925, Moore 1934, Hatton 1938, Barnes & Powell 1953, Feyling-Hannssen 1953, Barnes 1955, Barnes & Barnes 1962) revealed no latitudinal gradient, indicating that temperature effects are probably less important than other local factors. Growth in intertidal filter-feeders such as barnacles is limited not only by food supply and rate of feeding but also by the time available to feed. Barnes & Powell (1953) demonstrated an increase in growth of *S. balanoides* with increasing periods of submergence. In areas such as the Baltic Sea, which experiences very low amplitude tides, local conditions of pressure and wind are ex-

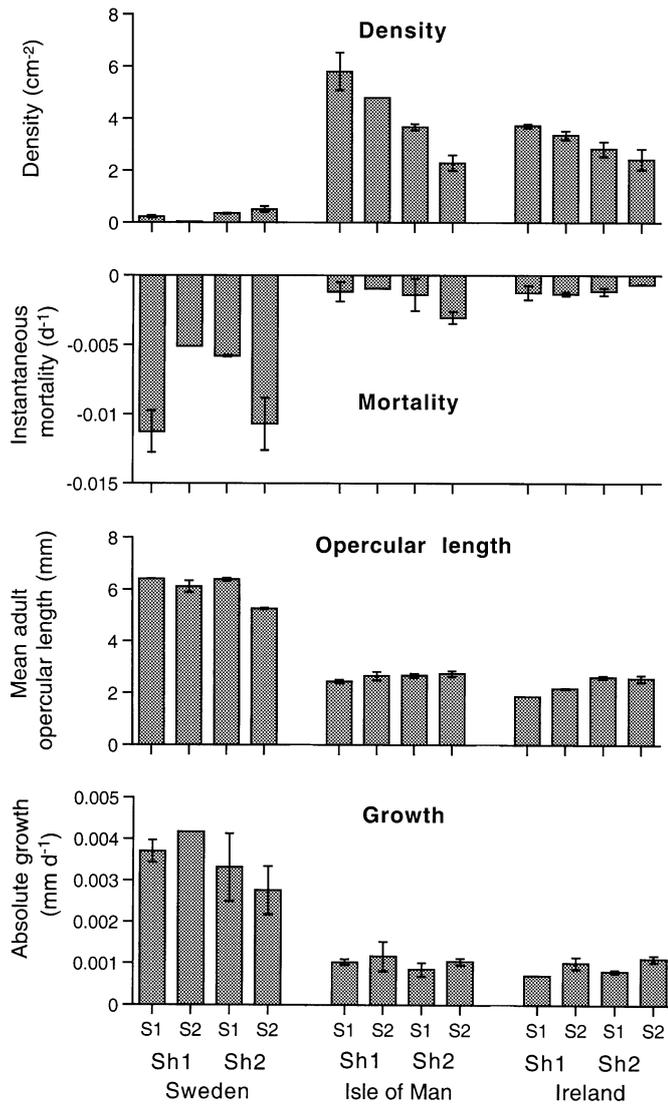


Fig. 3. *Semibalanus balanoides*. Mean estimates of 4 parameters for the adult population (>1 yr old) at the 3 locations for the period May/June 1997 to November/December 1997. Density and opercular length were determined at  $t_0$ . For each location two 5 × 5 cm quadrats were sampled at each of 2 sites (S1, S2) at each of 2 shores (Sh1, Sh2). Error bars =  $\pm 1$  SE

tremely important in determining the pattern of emersion and immersion experienced on the shore. At the Swedish location the very small tidal range means that any significant degree of wave action ensures that barnacles are submersed or at least exposed to wave splash. Barnes & Barnes (1962) observed high rates of growth in *S. balanoides* in Denmark, southern Sweden and north-east Germany and attributed this to the long periods of submergence experienced by littoral organisms in these atidal areas. As well as influencing growth, the pattern of tidal rise and fall may influence mortality rates. Connell (1961b) found high mortality of

recruits in periods of calm weather when emersion is increased. Local conditions (high-pressure systems) can result in long periods of continual emersion for intertidal barnacles in areas of low tidal amplitude. This may explain the high rates of mortality of new recruits at the Swedish location and consequent high turnover of bare space. Variability in emersion periods among sites and shores may also explain the large degree of variability at these spatial scales in Sweden compared to the other 2 locations. Another important factor influencing community dynamics on Swedish shores is the occurrence of sea ice. However, this did not develop during the period of our study.

In addition to environmental differences between locations, the possibility of genetic differences should not be overlooked. Given the large-scale dispersal in species such as barnacles with long-lived larvae (e.g. Crisp 1958), *Semibalanus balanoides* may be genetically homogenous over its distribution area in Europe, as are other barnacles (*Chthamalus montagui* and *C. stellatus*) (Pannacciulli et al. 1997). However, there are numerous cases where genetic differences within populations may be maintained despite large-scale patterns of dispersal (e.g. Levinton & Suchanek 1978, Todd et al. 1988).

At smaller spatial scales, significant differences were found in certain population variables. Differences between shores (1000s of metres) contributed significant variability in only 1 population variable, growth rate of

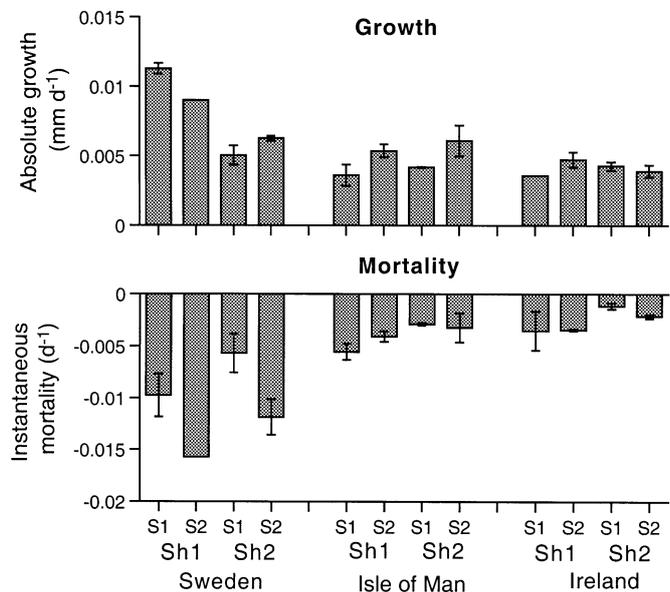


Fig. 4. *Semibalanus balanoides*. Mean estimates of growth and mortality for new recruits at the 3 locations for the period May/June 1997 to November/December 1997. For each location two 5 × 5 cm quadrats were sampled at each of 2 sites (S1, S2) at each of 2 shores (Sh1, Sh2). Error bars =  $\pm 1$  SE

Table 3. *Semibalanus balanoides*. ANOVA of instantaneous mortality and absolute growth for the period May/June 1997 to November/December 1997 in new recruits over a range of spatial scales. Significant values in **bold**

	Source	df	MS	F	p	Variance component	% variance component	
<b>Mortality</b>	Location	2	$1.54 \times 10^{-4}$	10.42	<b>&lt;0.05</b>	1.07	56.1	
	Transform	Shore (Location)	3	$1.48 \times 10^{-5}$	1.15	>0.4	0.05	2.5
	None	Site[Shore (Location)]	6	$1.29 \times 10^{-5}$	4.48	<b>&lt;0.02</b>	0.5	26.3
	$C = 0.2541$	Residual	12	$2.87 \times 10^{-6}$			0.29	15.1
	$p > 0.05$	Total	23					
<b>Growth</b>	Location	2	$3.26 \times 10^{-5}$	2.38	>0.2	0.24	35.2	
	Transform	Shore (Location)	3	$1.37 \times 10^{-5}$	5.49	<b>&lt;0.04</b>	0.28	41.8
	None	Site[Shore (Location)]	6	$2.50 \times 10^{-6}$	4.60	<b>&lt;0.02</b>	0.10	14.9
	$C = 0.3797$	Residual	12	$5.43 \times 10^{-7}$			0.05	8.1
	$p > 0.05$	Total	23					

Table 4. *Semibalanus balanoides*. ANOVA of % cover at  $t_0$  (May/June 1997) and 6 mo later,  $t_6$  (November/December 1997), over a range of spatial scales. Significant values in **bold**

	Source	df	MS	F	p	Variance component	% variance component	
<b><math>t_0</math></b>	Location	2	0.0392	0.55	>0.6	0 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>	
	Transform	Shore (Location)	3	0.0707	12.55	<b>&lt;0.01</b>	0.016	72.1
	None	Site [Shore (Location)]	6	0.0056	0.89	>0.5	0 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>
	$C = 0.2717$	Residual	12	0.0063			0.006	27.9
	$p > 0.05$	Total	23					
<b><math>t_6</math></b>	Location	2	0.584	5.24	>0.1	0.059	61.6	
	Transform	Shore (Location)	3	0.111	5.13	<b>&lt;0.05</b>	0.022	23.2
	None	Site [Shore (Location)]	6	0.022	3.02	<b>&lt;0.05</b>	0.008	7.8
	$C = 0.3797$	Residual	12	0.007			0.007	7.4
	$p > 0.05$	Total	23					

<sup>a</sup>Negative estimates were set to zero

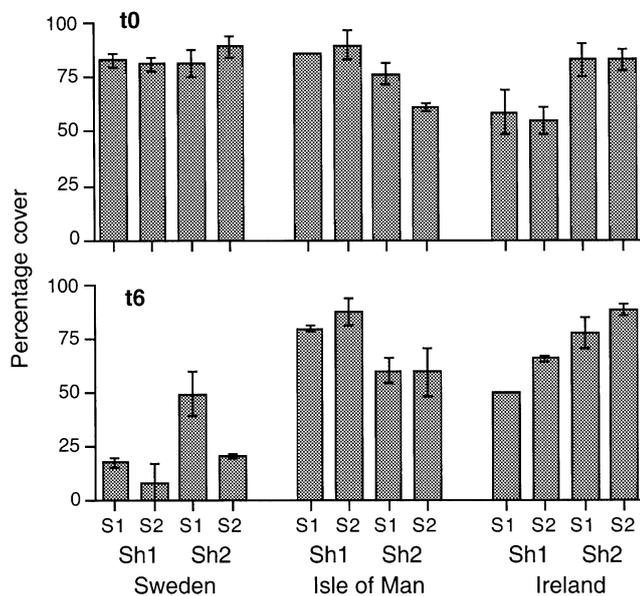


Fig. 5. *Semibalanus balanoides*. Mean percentage cover for each location at  $t_0$  (May/June 1997) and 6 mo later at  $t_6$  (November/December 1997). Error bars =  $\pm 1$  SE

recruits. Thus, within locations, estimates of adult population variables showed no difference between the exposed shores sampled. Hyder et al. (1998) demonstrated variation in free space, population variance (a measure of variability in individual size) and size at the mesoscale (100 m) in *Semibalanus balanoides* populations on shores in North Wales, UK, but only found variation between shores in the level of free space. The spatial scale 'shore' may be between the scales at which meso- and large-scale oceanographic processes affect populations (Hyder et al. 1998).

Bertness et al. (1991) demonstrated extreme spatial variation at the spatial scale of 'shore' (5 to 25 km apart) in the growth rate of *Semibalanus balanoides* in New England, USA. However, the shores studied covered an extreme environmental gradient from open coast, where food concentrations (measured as water-column chlorophyll *a* concentration) were low, to enclosed bays where concentrations were almost 6 times higher. Early work on *S. balanoides* demonstrated enhanced growth and larger size in localities such as tidal rapids and headlands where water movement

Table 5. *Semibalanus balanoides*. ANOVA of instantaneous mortality and absolute growth in adults (>6 mo old) over a range of spatial scales and between 2 time periods: May/June 1997 to November/December 1997 and November/December 1997 to May 1998

	Source	df	MS	F	p	F-test over	
<b>Mortality</b>	Location	1	$1.98 \times 10^{-7}$			No test	
	Transform						
	Shore (Location)	2	$4.18 \times 10^{-6}$	2.77	>0.25	Ti × Sh(Lo)	
	None						
	Time	1	$1.28 \times 10^{-6}$	1.08	>0.4	Lo × Ti	
	$C = 0.4707$	Location × Time	1	$1.19 \times 10^{-6}$	0.78	>0.4	Ti × Sh(Lo)
	$p > 0.05$	Sh(Lo) × Time	2	$1.51 \times 10^{-6}$	1.47	>0.25	Si[Ti × Sh(Lo)]
	Site [Time × (ShLo)]	8	$1.03 \times 10^{-6}$	1.26	>0.3	Residual	
	Residual	16	$8.20 \times 10^{-7}$				
	Total	31					
<b>Growth</b>	Location	1	$2.87 \times 10^{-7}$			No test	
	Transform						
	Shore (Location)	2	$1.41 \times 10^{-7}$	6.80	>0.1	Ti × Sh(Lo)	
	None						
	Time	1	$1.10 \times 10^{-7}$	2.32	>0.3	Lo × Ti	
	$C = 0.3942$	Location × Time	1	$4.76 \times 10^{-8}$	2.31	>0.25	Ti × Sh(Lo)
	$p > 0.05$	Sh(Lo) × Time	2	$2.07 \times 10^{-8}$	0.21	>0.8	Si[Ti × Sh(Lo)]
	Site [Time × (ShLo)]	8	$1.00 \times 10^{-7}$	2.47	>0.05	Residual	
	Residual	16	$4.04 \times 10^{-8}$				
	Total	31					

transports large quantities of suspended food to the shore (Moore 1934, Hatton 1938). In examining spatial variation between shores we specifically chose shores of similar exposure, and the lack of variability in adult population variables probably reflects the similarity in supply of food between shores. The significant effect of shore on recruit but not adult growth may indicate a greater sensitivity of rapidly growing recruits to slight variability in food supply. Bertness et al. (1991) concluded that predictable variations in the rate of food supply may lead to predictable consequences in the dynamics of adult populations. Our results support this prediction: where food supply rates are predictably similar over scales of kilometres, population dynamics are likely to show little difference. However, new recruits may show greater sensitivity to small environmental differences.

Variation at the level of site over a spatial scale of 10s of metres was demonstrated for all population variables except adult growth. Thus it appears that greater variability at spatial scales within shores than between them should be expected. It is not clear why this is the case. A variety of factors including substratum heterogeneity (Bergeron & Bourget 1986), substratum aspect and exposure to wave action (Airoidi & Virgilio 1998), intra- and interspecific interactions (Connell 1961a) and hydrodynamics (Leonard et al. 1998) can influence patterns and processes at spatial scales in the order of metres. Given the careful selection of sites within relatively strict criteria it seems unlikely that variation in substratum characteristics was important. Very little is known regarding variation in hydrodynamic pro-

cesses in the nearshore environment, especially over these scales. Such processes will influence recruitment rates, in addition to nutrient and food supply, and thus may influence population dynamics at small to medium scales.

A number of studies examining the spatial scale of variation in abundance of intertidal and subtidal

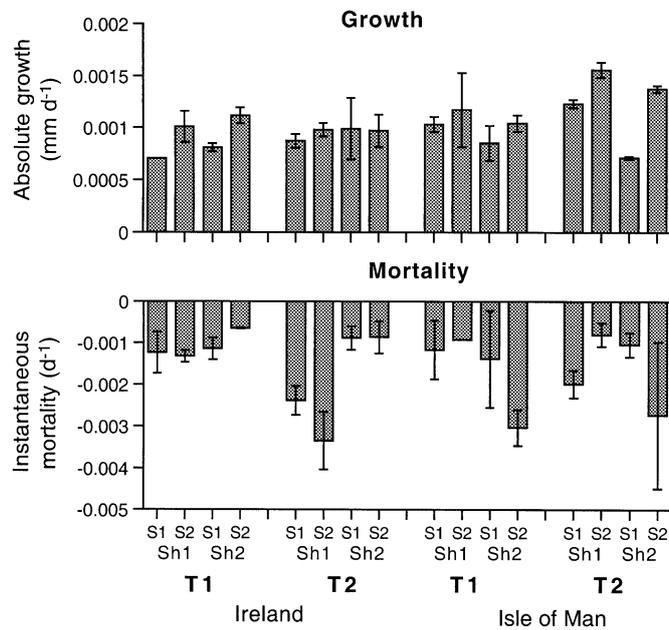


Fig. 6. *Semibalanus balanoides*. Mean estimates of growth and mortality for barnacles >6 mo old at 2 locations for 2 time periods: T1: May/June 1997 to November/December 1997; and T2: November/December 1997 to May 1998. For each location two 5 × 5 cm quadrats were sampled at each of 2 sites (S1, S2) at each of 2 shores (Sh1, Sh2). Error bars = ±1 SE

benthic invertebrates and algae have demonstrated a large degree of variation at the smallest scale: that between individual replicates (Lindegarh et al. 1995, Underwood & Chapman 1996, Åberg & Pavia 1997, Hyder et al. 1998). In our study, variation in the abundance of adults between replicates contributed very little to overall variability. However, this is not surprising, given the criteria for selection of sites. More interestingly, variability in rates of processes, growth and mortality was not high, in contrast to the study of Benedetti-Cecchi et al. (2000) on *Chthamalus stellatus*. Underwood & Petraitis (1993) considered that over small spatial scales a high degree of variability is to be expected in intertidal habitats owing to the sessile or relatively immobile nature of most species. It is easy to envisage homogeneity in food supply to barnacles over small spatial scales of 10s of centimetres resulting in low variability in growth. However small-scale variability in factors causing mortality in barnacles would appear likely. Johnson et al. (1998) demonstrated small-scale spatial gradients in predation pressure from dogwhelks centred around crevice refugia. Our selection of topographically simple areas of shore may have limited small-scale variability in predation pressure. Investigation of how environmental heterogeneity affects population dynamics over very small spatial scales may prove useful.

In summary, although mechanisms causing patterns cannot be determined from observational studies such as this, identification of scales of variation does suggest factors which may be important, and determines the correct scales for manipulative experiments to test competing hypotheses. Our results have verified that population dynamics of a species may vary considerably over its range. Surprisingly little variation was shown between replicates. Within a specific region, little variation could be identified between shores of the same type, and it is likely that examination of processes occurring at smaller scales (10s of metres) will be more fruitful. A greater understanding of the nearshore physical environment, in particular hydrodynamic processes, is vital to explaining local variability in demography of benthic species.

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