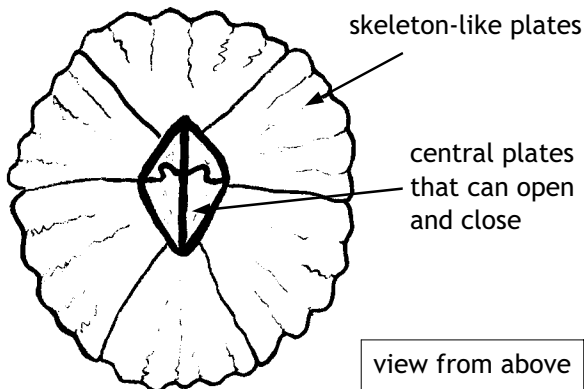


Barnacles

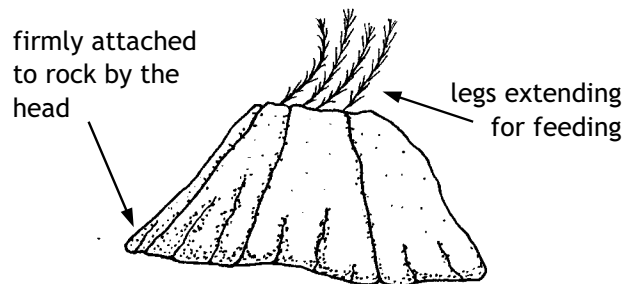


The Acorn Barnacle: Barnacles are usually found on the middle and lower shores where they can filter feed when covered with the tide.

A typical barnacle



view from the side



Goose Barnacles & Buoy Barnacles

This is an unusual type of barnacle that is sometimes found washed up on the beach. It normally spends its life out at sea, attached to floating objects such as boats or driftwood. It holds on using a long flexible brown stalk that can be partly withdrawn. This stalk is actually part of its head. The Goose Barnacle's shell is up to 5cm long and is made up of 5 white-to-bluish-grey plates set on dark brown skin. It feeds in the same way as other barnacles, by filtering tiny particles from the water. It is named after its resemblance to a goose! A relative of the Goose Barnacle was found on many beaches in West Cork this summer (see page 1). The Buoy Barnacle, which as it grows secretes its own spongy float, is sometimes cast up in large numbers, especially on south-western shores.



Photo: Paul Kay