



## **The survey of nauplius and cyprid larvae of *Amphibalanus improvisus* (Darwin, 1854) in different areas of the southern Caspian Sea**

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### **Abstract**

This study carried out by the R/V Guilan cruises in the Iranian coast of the Caspian Sea in 2010. We investigated nauplius and cyprid of the barnacle *Amphibalanus improvisus* in the southern Caspian Sea. The aim of this study was to identify and determine density of Total nauplius and larvae of *A. improvisus* (meroplankton) in the different seasons and regions of the Caspian Sea. The highest abundance of *A. improvisus* was observed in the spring  $1347 \pm 1254$  ind.  $m^{-3}$ . The peak of abundance was observed in the spring, declining sharply in the summer and autumn, and rising again in the winter. Annual changes showed that 66% of the abundance of *A. improvisus* existed in the west, 19% in the center and 15% in the east regions. In spring, the highest abundance of nauplius and cyprid larvae was observed. Nauplius (82%) and larvae (48%) included population of *A. improvisus*. The purpose of this study was to monitor of *A. improvisus* in Southern Caspian Sea and its abundance was shown in different regions and seasons.

**Keywords:** Zooplankton, *Amphibalanus improvisus*, Nauplius, cyprid, Meroplankton, Caspian Sea