

Barnacle Young Studied by UCSD Graduate Student

May 16, 1963

What one would assume is among the most helpless things in the world-- the minute, feebly swimming young of the marine barnacle, may have a built-in secret weapon in the fight for survival.

Before it attaches itself to a solid object, such as a ship, a rock, or a whale's back, the barnacle spends a part of its life as a tiny, crab-like creature that is carried by the currents.

But evidence suggests that in some species at this stage in its life it is able to eject a poison that enfeebles and kills creatures that might be likely to eat it.

If this proves true, the fact would have significant bearing on an understanding of life in the sea.

Peter B. Taylor, graduate student at the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has just received a fellowship from the National Science Foundation to go to England to study the phenomenon at the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association, Plymouth.

Taylor is completing a Ph.D. thesis on the venom of the California scorpionfish, *Scorpaena guttata*. He expects to begin his research in England in September.