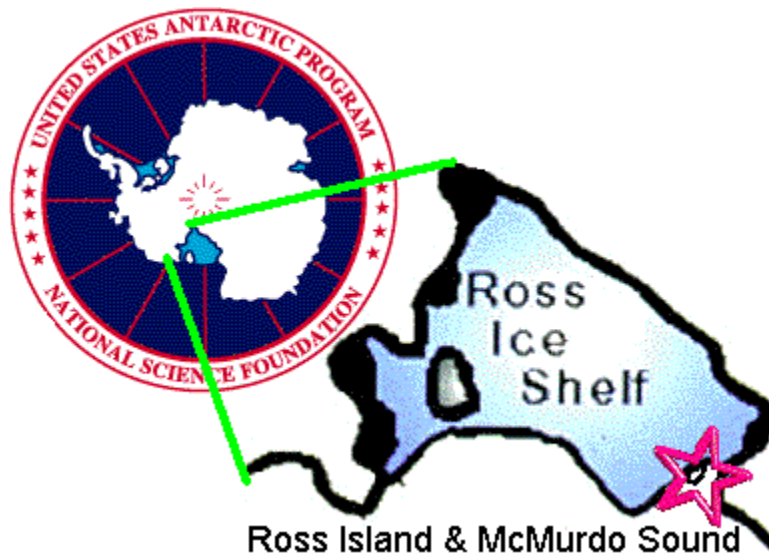


# Brachiopoda: brachiopods, lamp shells

## UNDERWATER FIELD GUIDE TO ROSS ISLAND & MCMURDO SOUND, ANTARCTICA

Peter Brueggeman

Photograph: Rob Robbins



The National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs sponsored Norbert Wu on an Artist's and Writer's Grant project, in which Peter Brueggeman participated. One outcome from Wu's endeavor is this Field Guide. This Field Guide builds upon principal photography by Norbert Wu, with photos from other photographers, who are credited on their photographs and above. This Field Guide is intended to facilitate underwater/topside field identification from visual characters. Organisms were identified from photographs with no specimen collection. Therefore these identifications are to the taxonomic level possible from photographs, and there can be some uncertainty in identifications solely from photographs.

© 1998+; text © Peter Brueggeman; photographs © Rob Robbins. Photographs may not be used in any form without the express written permission of the photographers.

## brachiopod *Liothyrella uva antarctica*



*Liothyrella uva antarctica* is found around Antarctica except the Antarctic Peninsula from 15 to 860 meters depth [1,3].

*L. uva antarctica* shell length is up to two centimeters [1].

The muricid gastropod *Trochon longstaffi* is a predator of *L. uva* [5].

*Liothyrella uva antarctica* is benthic, attached by a pedicle, and filters out phytoplankton for food [2]. *L. uva antarctica* has been found attached to stylasterine corals, principally *Errina*, and less often to stony bryozoans [1]. Females brood their larvae [2].

The Peninsular *Liothyrella uva* appears to be chemically defended from many predators, in addition to having calcareous spicules in its tissues, and being enclosed by a shell [4]. The Peninsular *Liothyrella uva* has growth lines implying lifespans of decades [4].

Brachiopods are also called lamp shells because they resemble early Roman oil lamps. Brachiopods occur in all oceans and, though no longer numerous, were once one of the most abundant forms of life.

**Taxonomic Note:** *Liothyrella uva* is divided into various subspecies [1].

**References:** **1:** Recent Antarctic and Subantarctic Brachiopods. MW Foster. Antarctic Research Series Volume 21. Washington : American Geophysical Union, 1974; **2:** Marine Biology 132(1):153-162, 1998; **3:** Jim Mastro, personal communication, 1999 (dive from 15 - 27 meters at McMurdo Station salt water intake jetty); **4:** Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology 169(1):103-116, 1993; **5:** Polar Biology 26(3):208-217, 2003