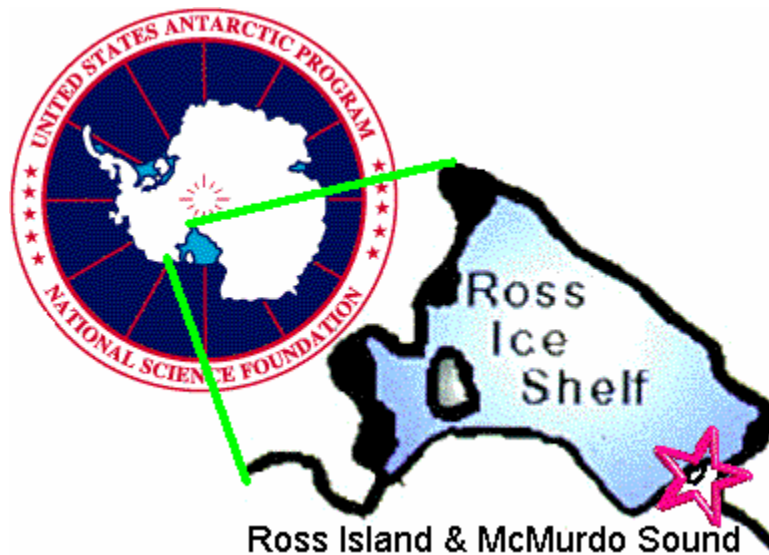


Porifera – Calcareous sponges

UNDERWATER FIELD GUIDE TO ROSS ISLAND & MCMURDO SOUND, ANTARCTICA

Peter Brueggeman

Photographs: Norbert Wu



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 © Norbert Wu. Photographs may not be used in any form without the express written permission of the photographers. Norbert Wu does not grant permission for uncompensated use of his photos under any circumstances whatsoever; see his FAQ at www.norbertwu.com

rubber sponge *Leucetta leptoraphis*



Leucetta leptoraphis is found in Antarctica from shallow depths down to 450 meters [1,2,3]. The color of *L. leptoraphis* is light tan, greyish-white to olive-green, and (rarely) pink [2,3].



Leucetta leptoraphis is less commonly seen, being 0.2% of the benthic surface cover and 0.04% of the sponge biomass at a Cape Armitage site [2]. *L. leptoraphis* may be found attached to the valves of *Limatula hodgsoni* or small rocks and is usually found in the third benthic zone below 33 meters at Cape Armitage [2].

An extract from *L. leptoraphis* has antibacterial and antiyeast activity [4].

Taxonomic Note: Sometimes the species name is misspelled as *leptorhopsis*.

References: **1:** Hooper, JNA & Wiedenmayer, F. Porifera. IN: Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Volume 12. Wells, A, ed. Melbourne : CSIRO Australia, 1994; **2:** Ecological Monographs 44(1):105-128, 1974; **3:** A revision of the classification of the Calcareous sponges; with a catalogue of the specimens in the British Museum (Natural History). Burton, Maurice. London : British Museum (Natural History), 1963; **4:** Antarctic Science 4(2):179-183, 1992