

BRACHIOPODS

GLOSSARY OF DESCRIPTIVE TERMS

- **Beak:** pointed end that sticks out along the hinge line
- **Brachial (dorsal) valve:** the smaller half of the shell, which supports the lophophore
- **Brachidium:** calcareous supports for the lophophore feeding organ
- **Commissure:** the line where both valves meet when closed
- **Delthyrium:** triangle or notch-shaped opening in the ventral valve through which the muscular pedicle emerges
- **Fold:** the raised up, 'tented' area down the midline of the brachial valve (opposite the sulcus)
- **Growth line:** concentric lines down the shell from the beak to the commissure which marks growth over time
- **Hinge teeth:** bumps along the inside of the hinge line of the pedicle valve; the brachial valve has corresponding dental socket depressions
- **Lophophore:** cilia lined organ used for feeding and respiration
- **Pedicle:** fleshy stalk-like organ used for attachment
- **Pedicle foramen:** rounded opening in the ventral valve through which the muscular pedicle emerges
- **Pedicle (ventral) valve:** the larger half of the shell which attaches to the pedicle
- **Plication:** an elaborately wavy surface on the shell surface, which looks like zigzags along the commissure
- **Sulcus:** depression, 'valley', down the midline of the ventral valve (opposite the fold)