

May 14, 1965

Dr. R. L. Ethington
College of Arts and Science
Department of Geology
101 Geology Building
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri 65202

Dear Dr. Ethington:

Thank you for your interesting letter of May 10, 1965. The small spherical objects you mention might be spherulites of francolite, or some other phosphorite mineral, grown entirely without the aid of animals. Similar spherulites composed of siderite are rather common in ancient flood plain muds. Have you had an X-ray analysis run on them to determine the exact mineral composition?

As to the exact reference to Nautilus kidney stones, I regret that I am at present in no position to help you. Here in Houston, we don't have good library facilities and I am unfortunately unable to check the literature. If you will check the Griffin, Haller, Willey references in your local library you will probably find the right reference. As I remember it, there was an illustration of these stones.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:jct

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