

September 15, 1944

Dr. H.B. Stenzel,
University of Texas,
Austin 12, Texas.

Dear Doctor Stenzel:

rightly,
The goniobases you sent are, as you surmised, G. comalensis. If I read the imperfect map I have here at home, the Salado locality is in the drainage of Trinity River. This is altogether new, although--it must be said--little is known of the mollusks of small Texas streams.

There is this possibility in regard to the distribution. The colony may have been established through fish planting. We have the case of a clam in Michigan which was brought from one stream into another as a fisherman's bait. At the end of his day, the man dumped out his bucket, and therewith one of our rivers obtained a new mollusk.

I suspect that more of this sort of thing is going to happen than has now taken place.

Pilsbry of the Nautilus will be interested in your find, since he was the original discoverer of comalensis. Without looking up the museum records, I would say the species has not been taken heretofore outside of the Guadalupe basin. I think you have made a shrewd guess in speaking of comalensis as a Pleistocene relic. It belongs to be a very old group--the operculum being paleomelanian--the other members of which inhabit South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. It is a big jump to Texas, and the chances are that intervening forms did once exist, but have died out.

Your paper will be welcome. I have been retired from the university, and I suggest you mail a copy to the Mollusk Division, university Museums, Ann Arbor.

I will turn the specimens in to the museum. They are very much welcomed.

Very truly yours,

Carlin Fiedrich