

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 13, 1931


Professor H. B. Stenzel,
Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas,
College Station, Texas.

Dear Professor Stenzel:

I am greatly indebted to you for your comments on the age of the beds on the John Navratil ranch in Burleson County, Texas. The fact that you have found that these beds belong to the basal part of the Yegua formation is especially interesting, for this is the first record for cetacean remains in the Claiborne group. The bones that I handled were very fragmentary and in such a condition that it is doubtful if anything could ever be done with them. At any event, the oldest known occurrence of cetacean remains can be assigned to the Yegua formation of Texas. In Egypt, cetacean remains have been found in deposits belonging to basal Middle Eocene. In case any field parties from your laboratory visit that area in the near future, I certainly would appreciate it if you would have them collect any such material as they might have the opportunity to save.

During the past year, I visited the museums of Europe to examine specimens of these archaic cetaceans collected in Africa and elsewhere, and last year spent some weeks collecting in Alabama. We were fortunate enough to find one complete head and portions of the skeleton of several others. Hence I am at present especially interested in the possibility of additional material turning up in the Yegua formation.

Sincerely yours,


Remington Kellogg
Division of Mammals