

March 11, 1963

Dr. A. Myra Keen
Geology Department
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Keen:

As to your note on O. multistriata Hanley, 1845, on p. 66 of Sea Shells of Tropical West America, in connection with the work on the oysters the following has come to light. As Hanley stated, the types of his O. multistriata were scraped from the bottom of a ship returning from the coast of Africa. It is, therefore, most probably from Africa. Lamy was quite correct in referring his material (Lamy, 1929/30, Révision des Ostrea vivants....: Jour. Conchyliologie, pp. 71-72) from South Africa to O. multistriata Hanley, 1845. The name O. procellosa Lamy, 1929/30, is a substitute name for O. multistriata Hanley, 1845, and not an independent name based on a description of the species; it must be credited to Lamy not to Valenciennes, who never left a manuscript, only a name on a label. I have seen Lamy's types in Paris and they fit Hanley's description very nicely. This is proved by Lamy's text.

Right next to Lamy's procellosa and in the same old-fashioned French cabinet drawer were the types of Ostrea margaritacea Lamarck, also from South Africa. To my great glee, the young specimens of margaritacea turned out to be identical with procellosa. There is no doubt that procellosa and multistriata refer to the young of the same species that Lamarck described chiefly from older specimens. The ultimate proof of this claim can be seen in the account and illustrations of O. margaritacea given in Korringa, P. [= Paul], 1956, Oyster culture in South Africa: Union of South Africa, Dept. of Commerce and Industries, Div. of Fisheries, Inv. Rept. 20, 86 pp., (March). Korringa knew nothing of the nomenclatural problems involved, so he was entirely unbiased.

As a final piece of information, O. procellosa is the type species of Striostrea Vialov, 1936. This taxon is a good biological unit.

Dr. A. Myra Keen

2

This information is given to you ahead of publication, in case you must prepare another edition of your very fine work. Regard it as a form of gratitude for the help I have received from you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:jct

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division