

September 10, 1943

My dear Dr. Lanz :

I am taking a chance that this letter will still find you at your old address, which I have from your recent publication on Polydora in Science. I am interested in certain occurrences of Polydora bore holes in oyster shells in the Miocene of Texas and am enclosing a photograph of these. Are these bore holes similar to any that you have seen in living oyster shells? I believe it is possible to refer these Miocene bore holes to a species ancestral or near related to one of the species living today.

In checking over the old literature on Polydora I find that the first Polydora described was P. cornuta described by L.A.G. Bosc. Histoire naturelle des Vers, Tome I, Paris, 1803. This Polydora was described from Charleston, South Carolina. It seems that it ought to be possible to reidentify that species. This is of particular importance because P. cornuta is apparently the genotype species of the genus Polydora. I wonder whether you have been able to check on this in your work.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Stenzel, Geologist

HBS:MJC
Enclosure