

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

June 2, 1964

Dr. H. Stenzel
Shell Development Company
Box 481
Houston 1, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

I have been wondering whether you have reprints of your notes in Science on the calcification of the resilium and the mineralogy of the hypostracum of Crassostrea virginica. I would very much like to have them for reference.

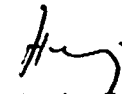
I shall be this summer in Fiji which is only a short distance from New Caledonia. As I recall, you told me some time ago that there are some people in Noumea who have live Nautilus in tanks and that it may be possible to get some for soft part anatomy study. I am systematically examining the radulae of recent molluscs to find out where mineralization occurs and what types of minerals are present. It is my experience that the minerals in radulae and soft parts of many species are often unstable in preserving fluids of any kind, and become either dissolved or are altered, depending on the nature of the preservatives. It would be important to obtain radulae of fresh Nautilus specimens for comparison with those of Archaeogastropods, Monoplacophora and Polyplacophora. I have representative material for all but Nautilus. I am also interested in the carbonate mineralogy of Nautilus shell from specimens taken alive.

I wonder if you could give me the names and addresses of the people who keep live Nautilus in Noumea and, in case you have contact with them, would be willing to write an introductory letter to them about my coming there. I would greatly appreciate any help you could give me in this matter.

If I can be of any help to you in securing some Nautilus or other mollusk material on my trip, I would be glad to get it for you.

Thanking you in advance for any help you can give with this matter, and hoping to see you again shortly. With best regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



H. A. Lowenstam
Professor of Paleocology

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