LYONS

September 24, 1969

Dr. William G. Lyons
c/o Marine Laboratory
P.O. Drawer F
St. Petersburg, Florida 33731

Dear Dr. Lyons:

The oysters from the Caribbean Coast of Colombia are indeed Crassostrea rhizophorae (Guilding, 1828). This species is the common mangrove oyster of the Caribbean region. Wherever it grows on mangrove it has a very thin, fragile shell. However, the specimens you sent evidently did not grow on mangrove stilts and probably for that reason are not as thin-shelled.

With your kind permission I would like to retain the specimens. It is very difficult for me to obtain a collection of species that could be used for comparisons, identifications, and special studies. I hope you can help me overcome this difficulty with other species.

Sincerely yours,

H.B. Stenzel,
Consulting Professor of Geology

HBS/po