

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

January 2, 1968

AIRMAIL

Dr. H. B. Stenzel
Geology Department
Rice University
Houston, Texas 77001

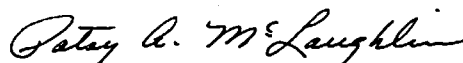
Dear Dr. Stenzel:

My sincere apologies for the lengthy delay between the receipt of your request and this acknowledgement of approval of your request. We experienced considerable difficulty in securing reviews by our Advisory Committee for sometime; however, that situation has now been corrected.

The Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center does not, in most instances, sort to the generic and specific levels so that we will be unable to pick out specimens of Ostrea cochlear. To the best of our ability, however, we will send those specimens of Ostreidae that are sorted. Our sorted pelecypod collections at present have not been subdivided at the family level but we plan to begin this secondary sorting very shortly. It should not be too long before you will begin receiving specimens.

Although your request is for world-wide collections of the family, we will not be able to provide specimens from the U.S. Antarctic Research Program because a prior commitment of all pelecypods to Dr. Dell.

Sincerely yours,



(Miss) Patsy A. McLaughlin
Supervisor for Invertebrates
Smithsonian Oceanographic
Sorting Center