

April 21, 1970

Dr. John David Taylor
Dept. of Paleontology
British Museum of Natural History
Cromwell Road
South Kensington
London S.W. 7
England

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I have read with great interest your article on "Aragonite in Rudists". The presence of calcite in the shells of immobilized bivalves is of considerable survival value to the species involved, because calcite does not leach away where aragonite would. And that seems to hold true in those places where immobilized bivalves grow in abundance.

Of course, I am favorably impressed because you mentioned all three of my papers on aragonite in oysters. You are more alert than many of the American Geochemist who still think that oyster shells are composed of 100% calcite.

We have here two kinds of electron microscopics, and I shall use them in the near future to investigate the ultra-structure of oyster shells. Preliminary tests shows that is a promising field.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely yours, .

H.B. Stenzel
Consulting Professor

HBS:bv