

October 7, 1963

Dr. James W. Valentine
103 Swallow Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Dr. Valentine:

The paper by you and J. B. Rucker on salinity response of trace element concentration in Crassostrea virginica has just come to my attention. If you have separates left, I would appreciate having one.

The shell of oysters is not all calcite, five well-defined small areas are made of aragonite. One might surmise that these areas have a different trace element concentration than the rest of the shell. If some of your samples accidentally contained one of these areas and others did not, that may have influenced your results and may have invalidated some of your conclusions. However, I believe no such accidental results were obtained by you, because you selected an anatomically good location to take the wedge samples.

Enclosed is a separate on this subject. Another paper is in press and should appear in one of the next issues of Science.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:jr

Enclosure: Paper on aragonite

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