

November 19, 1963

AIR MAIL

Dr. Keppel H. Barnard
Marine Department
South African Museum
Cape Town, Republic of South Africa

Dear Dr. Barnard:

Thank you very much for your prompt and helpful reply. I have seen a good many specimens of "Ostrea" cochlear from the type region and can assure you it is a Pycnodonte (spelled with an e at the end). The modified name Pycnodonta (spelled with an a at the end) is not the original spelling proposed by Fischer de Waldheim.

When I was in Paris in early fall 1962, I saw a specimen positively identified by me as Pycnodonte cochlear (Poli) labeled as follows: University of Cape Town, 1949, Banc des Aiguilles, 106 m, Afrique du Sud. It was a cluster of shells. The specimen was in the Musée National at Ranson's laboratory. Perhaps the University of Cape Town has been able to collect some more material since 1949. The South African records of the species are important because they prove the species can spread around the Cape from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. Hence, the supposedly separate species, "Ostrea" hirany Baker and Spicer, 1930, and "O." laysana Dall, Bartsch and Rehder, 1930, and "O." theanunai Dall, Bartsch and Rehder, 1930, and "O." musashiana Yokoyama, 1920, from the Pacific are probably the same species.

This species can be identified positively without any room for doubt, by its vesicular shell structure. I have been able to trace its ancestry down to the Upper Cretaceous. It is a beautiful phylogeny.

Would you please give me Professor Day's initials and his address.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:csr