

June 22, 1966

Mrs. R. J. Moiola  
Paleontology Department  
Dallas Museum of Natural History  
P. O. Box 26193  
Dallas, Texas 75226

Dear Mrs. Moiola:

Thank you for your letter of June 13. I am glad to notice from your letter that there is such a thing as a City of Dallas Natural History Museum and that it has a Paleontology Department. There is a tremendous as yet insufficiently explored field for paleontology around Dallas. Dallas and all other Texas towns have been remiss in doing something about our paleontological treasures. I wish you good luck.

The fossil crab looks like a Menippe mercenaria on casual inspection. All the North American living crabs have been monographed by the late Miss Mary J. Rathbun in the Bulletins of the U. S. National Museum. Bulletins 152 and 166 are some of them. Your crab is probably late Pleistocene in age and should check out as one of the present-day species.

I had a fossil crab, similar in its preservation, from the same general area and gave it to Dr. Harry S. Ladd of the U. S. Geological Survey, who was then writing a report on the bays of the Texas coast. He mentioned it in his report. These fossil crabs are apparently fairly common in that area.

Years ago, local amateur collectors in Dallas gave me many fossil Cretaceous crustaceans to describe. It was excellent material and was described in Univ. Texas Publication 4401. The region must be very rich in Cretaceous crustaceans and many additional species must turn up from time to time. Could you have the kindness to set them aside for me? I hope to get back to them someday.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:gw  
encl.: Photograph

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