



BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

DEPARTMENT OF PALAEOONTOLOGY

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15th August 1968

Dear Dr. Stenzel,

I enclose several photographs of oysters taken by Phil Palmer which seem suitable for you. In addition, I have included some notes covering the Jurassic forms compiled by Palmer and somewhat emended by myself, which may be of use. Most citations of Gryphaea bilobata J. de C. Sowerby in the literature, have assumed that it was a Lower Callovian species. Sowerby's type (photo supplied) has been examined by a number of reliable people and almost certainly comes from the Bajocian Gryphite Grit, where the common species is usually called G. sublobata. It therefore appears that the correct name for the Bajocian species is G. bilobata. Bathonian Gryphaea are virtually unknown but Gryphaea again becomes common in the Lower Callovian where a form previously known as G. bilobata occurs. The problem then arises as to whether the Bajocian and Lwr. Callovian forms are the same species. Many specimens from the two horizons are remarkably similar but it seems that some of the more extreme variants serve to distinguish the two populations. It is difficult to find another available specific name for the Lower Callovian form and clearly this matter needs further investigation. The photos consist of the type of G. bilobata (Bajocian) and 3 variants of the Lower Callovian forms which seem to span the total variation.

As for the Thanetian Gryphaeostrea eversa (Melleville) we have very few specimens. The rather poor photograph supplied includes the only reasonably preserved specimens that we have. Please let us know whether you would like better pictures of any of these specimens.

Please accept my apologies for the tardy reply, but we have been inundated with vacation and "en-route" to the Congress" visitors. As Dr. J.D. Taylor is moving across to Recent Mollusca in order to take over that section, your letter has been passed to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "N.J. Morris", written over a horizontal line.

N.J. Morris

Prof. H.B. Stenzel,
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