

September 24, 1968

John de Palma  
United States Naval Oceanographic Office  
Washington, D. C. 20390

Dear John,

The little oysters from Maizuru, Japan you sent are giving me trouble but fun. You are quite right in saying they are similar to Pycnodonte hyotis Linnaeus or thomasi McLean from Florida. In checking the name I find there is a Lopha or Dendrostrea or Pycnodonte hyotis Linnaeus from Japan. Linnaeus definitely was referring to the Indo-Pacific form and ours cannot be called hyotis Linnaeus. Though the Indo-Pacific species gets large and has a plicate margin when adult it does have the "bubbly margin" and similar hinge and ligament to what you sent. We do not have any specimens in the collection as small as yours.

When Roding instituted Lopha he referred among other species to the same figure in Chemnitz that Linnaeus did for hyotis and when Fisher de Waldheim instituted Alectryonia (1807) he referred to hyotis Linnaeus. The Japanese at present are putting hyotis in Dendrostrea Swainson 1940 but on the basis of shell structure it probably doesn't belong there.

From what I can gather from the literature and the collection the situation is this, Pycnodonte and Lopha are distinct genera the synonymy as follows.

Genus Pycnodonte Fisher de Waldheim 1835

Type species P. radiata Fisher de Waldheim 1835 (fossil)  
(according to Galtsoff 1964 and Ranson 1967.  
Cossman 1887 gives O. vesicularis Lamarck as the type -  
will have to check this out.)

Species included by Ranson 1967

- 1) Pycnodonte hyotis (Linnaeus)  
(with thomasi McLean as synonym)
- 2) Pycnodonte cochlear (Poli)
- 3) " ouculina (Deshayes) - fossil
- 4) " numisma (Lamarck)  
(with hiranoi Baker and Spicer as a synonym)

I cannot believe that thomasi is the same as the Indo-Pacific hyotis. The shells appear much closer to numisma Lamarck. We have

F. de W.  
gives radiata  
as the type.

paratypes of hiranoi and they are close. The type locality for hiranoi is 5 miles off Bay of Obama, N. coast of Hondo, Japan in 60 fms. We have a good series of thomasi from off Florida and I cannot make them the same as hiranoi = numisma. Therefore I would call your specimens from Florida Pycnodonte thomasi (McLean) and those from Japan P.numisma (Lamarck).

The genus Lopha Roding 1798 has as synonyms Rastellum Faujas - St. Fond 1799 and Alectryonia Fisher de Waldheim 1807, and Dendrostrea Swainson 1840. Gray 1847 gave folium Linnaeus as the type species of Dendrostrea and cristagalli Linnaeus as type of Alectryonia Fisher de Waldheim. Roding includes both species in Lopha. Am not sure whether or not a type species has been selected for Lopha but this genus has nothing to do with Pycnodonte so we can forget it for the present.

Hope I have this all correct but in case I haven't I am writing to Stenzel who is doing the Ostracidae for the Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology.

Perhaps the above will explain why it sometimes takes a while to answer letters.

Sorry I didn't get to Bob Acker's meeting but all I heard about it was "Perhaps I will see you for our meeting on the 23rd here at Main Navy". What was it about?

Will have your other specimens checked and the Japanese report done in a week or so now.

Best to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Ruth D. Turner