

December 7, 1951

Dr. L. R. Cox
British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road
London SW7, England

Dear Dr. Cox:

Your recent package of reprints has been received; I acknowledged them by postal card. Many thanks for them.

As to Holocraspedum Cragin 1893, about which you ask in your letter of November 16, 1951, I did not discuss it in my synopsis, because Cragin already had removed it from the Ostreidae and the specimens before me at that time seemed to confirm his conclusion.

The specimens from Williamson County which Cragin studied luckily are here in my office in the type collection of the Bureau. Cragin did not have Roemer's types available, for these were at Bonn or Breslau at that time. The original Geological Survey of Texas label of the Cragin specimens reads as follows on front side:

"base of Ponderosa Marl (over)/ No. 117, p. 41, Nov. 12, 1891/ "'Ostrea'
(?Diploschiza) anomiaeformis, Roem/ Locality: 2 mi below Shiloh School
House on Brushy CK. [= Creek] Williamson Co [= County]/ Collect^{ed}
S. Leverett"

It reads on the back side:

"These fossils from marl one mile east of Chalk-Marl contact or about 40
feet above base of the Ponderosa Marl/ S. L. [= S. Leverett]"

The line "'Ostrea' (?Diploschiza) anomiaeformis, Roem" is in india ink in Cragin's handwriting; all the remainder of the label is in pencil and in Leverett's handwriting.

These data indicate that they came from the basal part of the Taylor marl (Ponderosa marl of those days), probably upper Santonian. They are Anomia to my best knowledge, certainly they are not Ostreids. Without hesitating I would place the Cragin specimens in Anomia argentaria Morton as described by Stephenson (Univ. Texas Pub. 4101, pp. 148-151).

I do not know exactly how Cragin's dubious type species designation is to be interpreted in accordance with the latest rules, which I do not have handy at the moment. In view of the weight Cragin gave to the "notch in the cardinal margin",

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his citation of a definite collection from Williamson County, and the other data given in this letter I believe the type species of Holocraspedum is the species represented by the Williamson County material. I have never seen Roemer's types of Ostrea anomiaeformis nor do I have topotype specimens available, but these might possibly be obtained.

I hope this discussion is of benefit to your work.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel, Geologist

HBS/st