



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DETROIT 2, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

October 29
1 9 6 3

Dr. H. B. Stenzel
Shell Development Company
P. O. Box 481
Houston, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

As I remember, this is the situation with Ostrea patercula Winchell. At the time of your first communication with the Museum of Paleontology at Ann Arbor I located the specimen (there is only one small shell fragment) and gave it to Dr. Kellum. Some time later I was asked to locate it again. The culprits involved are Dr. Kellum, Dr. G. M. Ehlers, or myself. One of us is responsible for misplacing the specimen. In any case, extensive search did not produce the specimen on my second attempt. It is still possible that it will turn up at Ann Arbor some time in the future, but I would not look forward to any quick results.

About four years ago, I examined the specimen in a casual manner. I could not tell whether it was a fragment of a pelecypod or a fragment of a brachiopod. It did not conform to the drawing which Winchell made of Ostrea patercula. It seems likely to me that at the time Winchell's types were catalogued there was an error resulting in this shell fragment being called O. patercula.

Another view is held by G. M. Ehlers. He contends that the specimen is, in fact, a fragment of the shell from which Winchell made his drawing of O. patercula. Last year, at the time he was going to demonstrate this to me, we found the specimen missing.

Dr. Ehlers has had two heart attacks recently. His condition seems to be improving and, when I next see him, I will again get his views on the Ostrea patercula specimen.

In my opinion, this single fragmental specimen of unknown affinities is very poor evidence for extension of the range of Ostrea. Sorry I cannot be of more help. If Ehlers has any pertinent comments, I will forward them to you.

You will note that I am now working at Wayne State University.

Sincerely yours,

BERT DRISCOLL

Egbert G. Driscoll
Assistant Professor of Geology

EGB:RM

I COULD NOT DO SO AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SPECIMEN WAS EVER RETURNED TO ME.