

January 5, 1961

Professor Brian McGowran
The University of Adelaide
Adelaide, Australia

Dear Professor McGowran:

At the beginning of 1960 you requested some separates of my publications, which were sent to you. This time I have some questions to ask you and to make a plea for help from you.

You may already know that Raymond C. Moore has selected me to write the chapter on Ostreidae for the Lamellibranch volume of the Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology. That means all the various species of oysters that have been proposed for type species of genera and subgenera need to be looked into. You would be surprised how many of them have so been used (or misused). Among them are two Australian species:

(1) Avicula corbiensis Moore, Charles, 1870, Australian Mesozoic geology and paleontology: Geol. Soc. London Quart. Jour., v. 26, pp. 246-247, pl. 11, fig. 7. Described from near Mt. Corby, Australia. Has this species been redescribed since 1870 or is it a well-known species? What is known about it aside from the data Charles Moore gave?

According to Bonavelli & Nagera, 1921, Observaciones geologicas en las inmediaciones del Lago San Martin (Territorio de Santa Cruz): Minist. Agricult. [Argentina], Direcc. Gen. de Minas, Geol. y Hidrol., Ser. B. (Geologia), bull. 27, p. 21, this Australian species occurs also in Argentina and is an oyster (Gryphaea). These authors selected corbiensis (Moore) as the type species of their subgenus Mimatostreon.

(2) Ostrea commercialis Iredale & Roughly, the common living rock oyster of Australia, also known as Saxostrea commercialis. It is the type species of Saxostrea Iredale, 1936.

Would it be possible to obtain specimens of these two species? Good specimens would allow me to study these species and make it possible for me to describe the two taxa involved. Could you give me some information on these species or possibly help me with some specimens.

Well, the new year 1961 has started already. Let's hope we do well in this year.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

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