

May 20, 1964

Dr. Robert H. Parker
c/o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Parker:

I understand you have been studying the Mollusca dredged in the general area of the Gulf of California. If so, have you run across the very thin-shelled deep-water oyster *Ostrea cochlear* Poli, 1795, which has been described also under various other names, for instance, *O. musashiana* Yokoyama, 1920, and *O. hiranoi* Baker & Spicer, 1930, and *O. laysana* Dall Bartsch, & Rehder, 1938, and *O. thaanumi* D., B., & R., 1938? It has previously been found off the southern Japanese Islands, the Philippines, and the Hawaiian Islands. However, I suspect that it is much more widely distributed in the Pacific and Indian Oceans than present records indicate.

I have been gathering distribution data on this and other oyster species in order to get a better understanding of geographic speciation in oysters and various other problems. The ultimate goal is a book on biology and paleontology of the oyster family from the point of view of the geologist and paleontologist. The text is near the halfway mark already, which means about 300 typed pages.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

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