

P.O. Box 61  
TELEPHONE 41-2668/41-2669



SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM  
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

8th January 1963

Dr. H.B. Stenzel  
P.O.Box 481  
HOUSTON, 1. Texas.

Dear Dr. Stenzel

Your interesting letter of Dec. 13th received. Not merely interesting, but very interesting. It is indeed kind of you to tell me about the unpublished results of your researches. I shall of course make no use of your information until your researches are published.

As already remarked I am unwilling to accept the identity of fossil and living species (except perhaps Pleistocene specimens), or to employ the same generic/specific names for them.

On the evidence set out in your letter, I personally should be inclined to ignore the Miocene Saccostrea as a *genus* for our margaritacea, and to adopt Striostrea Vialov; and Saxostrea for cucullata-commercialis. I am not competent to judge the generic or subgeneric differences between these two species.

Saxostrea was published 7 April 1936, and therefore (unfortunately) has priority over Striostrea (after 1 August).

I found Vialov's paper in Doklady, but with some little difficulty because it was indexed under Geology. That is probably why other zoologists have overlooked this paper. The two zoological papers in the same part of Doklady were duly entered in the Zool. Record 1936. Vialov also had a paper on the same subject in Int. Zool. Congr. Lisbon, 1937.

Exogyra imbricata Krss. The Palaeontological collections, including Mollusca, are not in my charge; and in any case an application to borrow material should, I think, be formal. Will you therefore write to the Director (Dr. A.W. Crompton) asking for the loan of any material of this species in the collections. The Albany Museum, Grahamstown, and the Museum, Port Elizabeth should also have material. Also Dr. Rennie, Prof. Geology & Geography, Rhodes University, Grahamstown (he has written on fossil molluscs).

Kitching gave 4 numbers of specimens from S.A. Museum; presumably these were returned. The Geological Survey material should also be in S.A. Museum.

P.O. BOX 61  
TELEPHONE 41-2668/41-2669



SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM  
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Stenzel

-- 2 --

The delay in answering your letter of Dec. 13 due to the season's festivities and holidays, gives me the chance to acknowledge also your letter of January 2nd.

I will tell the Knysna Oyster people that you are pleased with what they sent you. You may want some more material from them!

Reverting to margaritacea, could one not call it Crassostrea (Striostrea) m., the Crassostrea indicating its morphological and physiological characters, and Striostrea the radial riblets on the upper valve.

I wish we could have a modern Type, with the animal showing its promyel cavity and ripe gonads; also as you suggest, its serological and chemical formula. Taxonomy of the future!

With all good wishes  
Yours sincerely

*Geoffrey H. Korman*  
Hon. Worker Marine Dept.