

March 31, 1936

Mr. F. W. Mueller
Shelly Oil Company
Azua, Dominican Republic

Dear Fritz:

In New Orleans I heard from Mr. Cartwright that you are exploring the oil possibilities of the Caribbean. Mr. Cartwright said that you might possibly make a trip to some of the other Caribbean islands. In that case I believe you ought to go to Bowden, Jamaica, and collect fossils for your old professor. Enclosed I am sending you the description of the Bowden locality. In any case, whether you get to Jamaica or not, I most certainly expect you to bring half a ton of fossils back to me. There are numerous other localities in the Caribbean islands which are important besides Bowden.

Very sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel, Geologist

HBS:MJC
Enclosure

-----at Bowden, on the east side of Port Morant in the Parish of St. Thomas, lying on the south coast of Jamaica near its eastern end. The beds crop out on the slope of the hills facing the bay.

At the time when Henderson and Simpson collected there (1894) the best exposure was in a road cut about 100 yards up the bay from a pier used by the United Fruit Company. This road cut was at the foot of a hill on which stood a house occupied by Capt. L.D. Baker, an official of the company.

At the type locality a bed of imperfectly consolidated gravel consisting of small pebbles and grains of igneous rocks, limestone and other sorts of rock in a ~~matrix~~ marly matrix crops out in the road cut for a distance of several hundred feet along the bay. This bed which is not more than 2 or 3 feet thick, contains perfectly preserved fossils, and so far as known has furnished all the fossils collected at Bowden. Collectors usually shoveled the gravel and fossils into barrels, a method of collecting that furnished an unusually large number of small specimens. The gravel probably lies at the base of the formation, but the underlying deposits are not exposed. Overlying the gravel are harder beds of earthy limestone and marl containing casts and impressions of fossils. Farther up the hill, which rises about 800 feet above the bay, are beds of marl, clay, and sandstone. Dr. Matley discovered poorly preserved plant remains in these beds. The beds dip 10° or less south-southeastward. The total thickness of the formation as exposed at the type locality is about 250 feet.