

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

May 28, 1963

Dr. H. B. Stenzel
Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division
Houston, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

I have been quite interested in your note in Science: "Aragonite in the resilium of oysters." You mention that the shells of oysters are composed mainly of calcite and minor amounts of aragonite. Bøggild mentions only calcite for oyster shells. We have investigated the shell mineralogy of a variety of oysters to determine whether they also contain aragonite as you note. We find that the carbonate of the muscle scars is composed of aragonite, and I wonder if your reference to aragonite refers to the muscle scar carbonate. If so, have you published this and could you send me a reference to your paper. I am interested in the question of whether there are biochemical differences to account for the differences in shell and muscle scar mineralogy. Hence if you have not yet published on the mineralogic differentiation of shell and muscle scar differences in oysters I hope you will do so shortly and let me know where it will appear. I hope to see you again in the not too distant future.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,


H. A. Lowenstam

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