



BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

DEPARTMENT OF PALAEOLOGY

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10th November, 1964.

Dr. H. B. Stenzel,
Shell Development Company,
Exploration and Production Research Division,
P.O. Box 481,
Houston, Texas 77001,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Stenzel,

Thank you for your letter of the 27th October and for the three reprints, which I have been greatly interested to read. I would support your application to the International Commission for the suppression of Drepanites Benett. I see that in Part L of the Treatise, page L162, an ammonite genus Drepanites Mojsisovics 1893 is accepted, while there is no reference to Benett's generic name. Presumably the 1893 generic name would be validated if your application is successful, although I do not know if you have applied for it to be placed on the Official List.

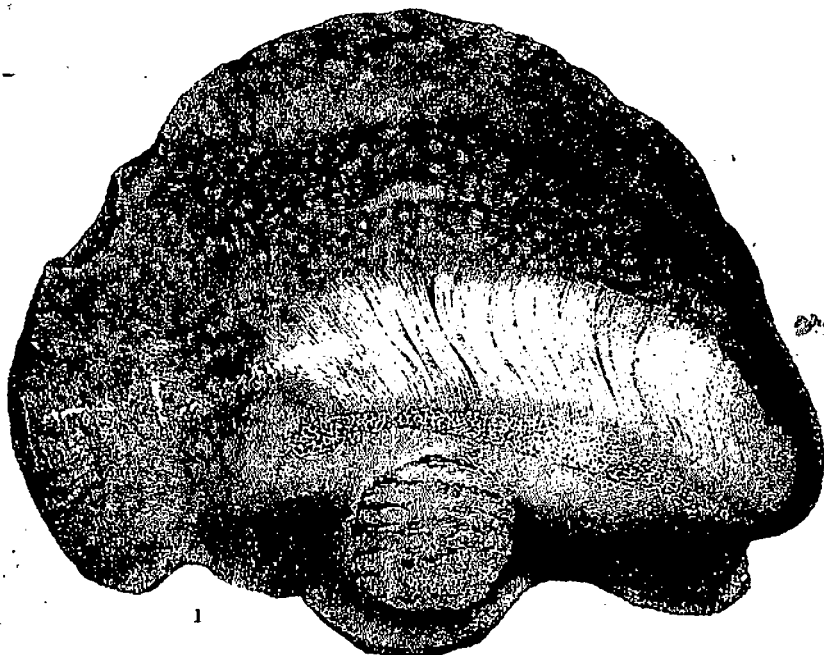
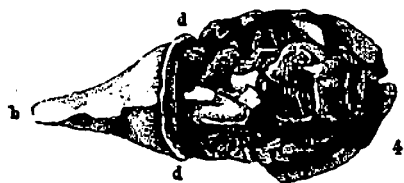
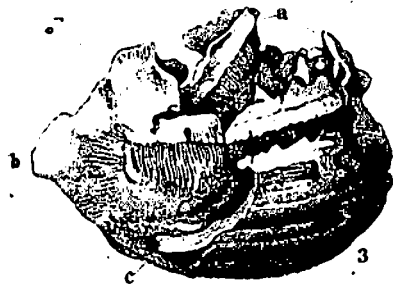
So far as the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia are concerned, what would interest me more than the re-discovery of the type of Drepanites would be that of specimens, also once belonging to the Etheldreda Benett Collection, of silicified Trigonidae supposed to contain traces of the original ctenidia of the molluscs. The specimens in question came from the Upper Jurassic (Portland Beds) of Tisbury, Wiltshire, and were referred to by H. T. de la Beche in two successive Presidential Addresses (1848-9) to the Geological Society of London, by S. P. Woodward in his Manual of the Mollusca, and by G. Mantell in his Medals of Creation and his Wonders of Geology. A plate illustrating them was prepared by E. Charlesworth for publication in the London Geological Journal, but this periodical became defunct just before his paper was due to appear. A copy of the plate has come into my possession (a photograph of it is enclosed), and it is highly desirable that the specimens illustrated should be traced, as the occurrence of fossilized ctenidia, if confirmed, would be altogether unique. I wrote to Horace Richards and sent him a photograph of the plate a week or two ago, but have had no reply so far. Having written to him, I can hardly write on the same subject to Tucker Abbott or to Radclyffe Roberts.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L. R. COX

P.S. No need to return photograph.



Siliceous Trigonix, from the Portland beds of Tisbury, Wilts.
showing remains of soft parts.

Capt. of Mr Wilson, from the Bost Collection.