



DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

601 Booth Street,
Ottawa, May 20, 1965.

Dr. H.B. Stenzel,
Shell Development Company,
P.O. Box 481,
Houston, Texas, 77001,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Stenzel,

Thank you for your letter of May 12.

I am afraid I have not yet had time to gather together a collection of Triassic Gryphaeas from Canada. We have quite a large collection, many of which are unsorted.

I have not studied these shells critically and am not in a position to express an opinion about the relationship between Gryphaea chakii and Gryphaea arcuatiformis. The holotype of chakii, and most of the other specimens I have seen, has a very prominent attachment area. The specimens from the Arctic, which I have compared with arcuatiformis, commonly do not show a large attachment area.

Incidentally, G. chakii is Norian; the ones from the Arctic are Karnian.

If you would care to come to Ottawa and examine these specimens I would be very pleased to show them to you. This would enable you to decide which specimens are well enough preserved to be worth borrowing for study. Most of them are rather poor. There are also some Lopha-like ostreids in our collections, but as I recall they are not well preserved. I will be away from Ottawa from late June to the beginning of August, but will be returning in August, at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

E.T. Tozer,
Palaeontology Section.

ETT/AL