

November 29, 1962

Dr. Copeland MacClintock
Peabody Museum
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Dr. MacClintock:

You deserve a medal. There are too few people who even remember what they talked about at conventions, still fewer who follow up. Thank you.

The species O. iridescens Hanley is one of a group of very similar species that have much in common including the iridescence of the internal valve surface. Another species is O. margaritacea Lamarck, the common South African oyster. There is also a fossil species from the Eocene of Alabama. In view of the fact, that these species have many other features in common and, therefore, would be placed close to each other by any good systematist, they must be genetically closely related and the iridescence is a genetic, that is, heritable feature.

So far, fine and good, but what really causes the iridescence and why does it occur only in this group of species. You might use your fertile brain on that one sometime.

Best wishes and good luck at your new locale.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

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