

C/o Australasian Petroleum Co.  
PORT MORESBY,  
PAPUA

28th October 1948

Dr. H.B. Stenzel,  
Bureau of Economic Geology,  
The University of Texas,  
AUSTIN 12,  
TEXAS, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Stenzel,

Your compilation of information on Nautilus is certainly a very valuable and interesting undertaking. Unfortunately, I cannot contribute very much to it. But I hear that Miss Joyce Allen, Conchologist at the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia, should have all the information available in this part of the world within easy reach and it would be worth while contacting her if you have not already done so. What we see here is a large number (perhaps up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen on a suitable day along a half-mile stretch of beach in front of our house) of empty shells arriving on the south or southeast-facing beaches during the southeast wind season (April to September). Many of them are perfectly preserved but some of course are battered and broken as they hit the barrier and fringing and patch reefs in the heavy surf, or worn down in the coral sand. I have never seen the animal in the shell but a native in one of the villages near Moresby told me that he had seen one long ago. Of course the natives are not very reliable informants in matters of natural history which do not immediately concern them. However, I have frequently seen remains of muscle fibers and skinlike tissues of the animal adhering to the shell which suggests that it did not float very long. Young shells, about 2-3 inches in diameter, are found quite frequently although adult specimens are more common. The shape and colour are variable and it seems that some of Iredale's species may be only modifications; however, this is only an impression in a matter which I have not studied in detail.

I hope to hear more about the matter from you in due course.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
Martin F. Glaessner