

April 29, 1968

Dr. R. W. Menzel
Department of Oceanography
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Fla. 32306

Dear Dr. Menzel:

The South African oysters arrived in good shape. Please accept my thanks for them. They are going to be quite useful to me, although I already have a few specimens of this species; with the oysters it is always advisable to have more than just a few specimens.

I hope you are keeping a good colony of this species alive for future work. Perhaps you should try to obtain "Ostrea" iridescens Hanley 1854 from the west coast of Mexico and Central America (see Myra Veen "Seashells of tropical west America", p. 66). The two are closely related according to my ideas and belong in the same genus, which is not Crassostrea.

Did you notice the very heavy periostracum and the seminacreous sheen of the shells? This is very foliaceous.

Your cross-breeding experiments may yet turn out to be very important to classification in the Ostreidae. That would be an important result.

With best wishes and thanks.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel
Visiting Professor of Geology

HBS:cb

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