

October 22, 1963

Dr. T. Soot-Ryen
Zoologisk Museum
Saragt 1
Oslo 47, Norway

Dear Dr. Soot-Ryen:

For the last several years, my task has been to write a book on the Ostreidae from the point of view of the paleontologist. In this work both the living and the fossil oysters shall be reviewed so that modern biological results will shed light on the paleontologic problems and vice versa. While there are several excellent books on the biology of modern oysters, no such integration of paleontology and neontology has been attempted for many years.

Right now I am trying to assemble all the data on the distribution of "Ostrea" cochlear Poli. This species is obviously of worldwide distribution. Being an euhaline deep-water species it can spread from one ocean to the other. The record from the south tip of Africa (Odhner, 1922, Göteborgs Mus. Zool. Medd., v. 23), is rather important in that context, because it proves that this species does spread around the horn of Africa. The two species, O. thaasumai and O. laysana described by Dall, Bartsch, and Rehder (1938, Bishop Mus. Bull. 153) are clearly the same as O. cochlear; the same applies to the O. musashiana Yokoyama, 1920, of the Japanese Zoologists.

For the purpose of assembling this map of the distribution of this species, could you have the kindness to look through your collections and list all specimens of this species, including exact localities, bottom-water temperatures, and depth, if these are available? Similarly data on Ostrea imbricata Lamarck and O. hyotis Linné and O. sinensis Gmelin and on O. fisheri Dall are needed. These species all belong to the same complex of O. hyotis Linné, 1758.

Your help in these matters would be appreciated very much and I hope I am not burdening you with too much work.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Stenzel

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