

October 29, 1964

Dr. Ruth Turner
Mollusk Department
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Turner:

It was a pleasure to be in the Mollusk section of the M. C. Z. and to discuss bivalves with you. Please accept my thanks for your help and hospitality. I don't know what I could have done without it.

By separate mail, I am sending you one species of Calyptraphorus. You will remember you were interested in this Paleocene and Eocene genus that is typical for the Gulf of Mexico waters of those ages. There are many species of this genus forming a successional sequence (successional speciation).

The same package will contain the oldest Tertiary shipworm known. It comes from the upper, hard portion of the basal conglomerate of the Midway Group and was found at Littig, Travis County, Texas. It is the only specimen ever found that low in the Tertiary section of the Coastal Plain and was originally 9 inches above the Cretaceous-Tertiary contact.

Perhaps you can find the shells in their proper positions. However, don't let it discourage you if you cannot find them. There are other materials to be shipped, although they will come from higher levels of the Tertiary. Please return the specimen after you have finished with it.

About the manuscript on shipworms, which you showed me, if you would send to me copies of the first pages including the paleontologic observations, I could read them much better here than I was able to in Cambridge. Perhaps some of the specific paleontologic discussions need improvement.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:kmw

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