

September 10, 1943

Dr. Olga Hartman
 Scripps Institute of Oceanography
 La Jolla, California

Dear Dr. Hartman :

I have been at work recently on some fine, U-shaped bore holes in oyster shells from the Miocene of Texas. These bore holes, I believe, are made by members of the genus Polydora. I understand that this worm is a common borer of the oyster. Enclosed you will find a photograph of some of the specimens. It is my belief that essentially the same species exist today as in the Miocene or possibly they are the direct lineal descendants of the Miocene species. According to your knowledge, which species of the genus Polydora is capable of producing such bore holes?

I have also been trying to find the first description of the genus Polydora and its genotype species. As far as I can trace it, it seems that Polydora was first described by L.A.G. Boss, Histoire naturelle des Vers, Tome 1, Paris, 1803, and the only species described by Boss seems to be Polydora cornuta from Charleston, South Carolina. Under those circumstances P. cornuta could become the genotype of the genus. However, P. cornuta does not seem to have been reidentified by any of the subsequent workers. I wonder what your opinion on this subject is.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Stenzel, Geologist

HBS:DJC
 Enclosure