

University College London · Gower Street WC1

August 13th 1962

Dear Dr. Stenzel,

I'm afraid your other letter must somehow have missed me. I don't know of any work on pigments in the genus Ostrea, nor in Spondylus (except for the fact that orange and yellow molluscan shell pigments are not usually extractable in acid). The purple streaks on some Ostrea may well, I think, be acid-soluble bile pigments related to those in Pinctada. I don't think any Ostreid has porphyrins.

I'm sorry not to be able to help more, but as you know only the acid-soluble shell pigments of marine pelecypods have been looked at, and these only in a few groups. I drew a complete blank with the brilliantly-coloured Chlamys spp and didn't examine oysters, save for our own edible species, which failed to fluoresce under ultraviolet light.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Comfort
Alex Comfort

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