

January 24, 1935

Dr. Hubert G. Schenck
Department of Geology
Stanford University, California

Dear Dr. Schenck:

I am nearing the end of my manuscript on Aturias of the Gulf Coastal Plain and in connection with this work I have run across the genus Megasiphonia of d'Orbigny which has as original species Aturia aturi, Aturia zigzag, and Aturia alabamensis. I wonder whether any of these three species have been selected as types for Megasiphonia. As the name implies the genus should have a large siphon. That means that d'Orbigny had probably Aturia aturi in mind which has the largest siphonal invaginations and is also a French species and therefore was probably in the hands of d'Orbigny when he made that genus. I am asking this question because I am sub-dividing Aturia into three different sub-genera. One of the sub-genera contains among others Aturia alabamensis. I have given a new name to this sub-genus but if Aturia alabamensis should be the type of Megasiphonia my new sub-genus name would fall into the synonymy of Megasiphonia. I presume that in your studies of Aturia you have checked these type designations and will be able to answer this question for me. I have not enough books around here to check all these type designations in the older literature.

With many thanks,

Very sincerely yours,

H. B. Stensel, Geologist

HBS:MJC