

South African Museum
Cape Town.
6th December 1962

Dr. H. B. Stenzel
Shell Development Coy.
P.O. Box 481
Houston 1, Texas.

Dear Dr. Stenzel

Yours of 29 Nov. to hand. The Knysna Oyster Coy, tell me they are in touch with you; and I hope they adequately meet your desire for material.

It is interesting to learn that you have an Eocene oyster which has similar radial riblets to our margaritacea.

Korringa (1956) after stating that Gryphaea is to be restricted to fossil oysters, gave the name of our common oyster as Crassostrea (Gryphaea) margaritacea; which seems to be hauling down one's flag and abandoning the position! in fact quite incorrect nomenclaturally and taxonomically.

I also disagree with him in identifying our large Red oyster (larviparous) with the fossil species atherstonei. Conchologically there may be similarities, even an exact agreement, but we shall never know whether atherstonei was oviparous or larviparous. Therefore, whereas the fossil should be known as Gryphaea atherstonei (Newton), the living examples should be classified under a different specific name in the genus Ostrea. † O. redhousei Newton is of course merely a synonym of atherstonei.

In my Revision of S.A. Marine Mollusca Part V I am adopting O. algoensis Sow., a small "weed oyster"; and because Korringa seems convinced that the large Red oyster is distinct I am calling the latter Ostrea sp. (cf. † Gryphaea atherstonei (Newton)).

Korringa's reference to the exhibited specimens in the S.A. Museum (p. 38, bottom, left column) is not quite correct. At the time of his visit only hyotis and cucullata were definitely labelled with names. I was Director at the time, but Korringa made no formal official visit, or any enquiries as to whether we had additional study material. (We had none, but he might have had the courtesy to come and ask!).

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Keppel H. Lamont

(Hon. Worker Marine Dept.)

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Green Development Co., Superintendant
and Research Division

P.O. Box 481

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U.S.A.

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NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

K.A. Kennard

Arch. & Eng. Museum

Cape Town

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