



Marineland

PTY. LTD.

Incorporated in A.C.T.

BOX 136, P.O., MANLY

TELEPHONE 97-3319

WEST ESPLANADE

MANLY, N.S.W.

February 14th, 1964.

Dr. H.B. Stenzel,
P.O. Box 481,
HOUSTON 1,
TEXAS. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

I am glad to hear that you are still active in oyster taxonomy. I believe there is a young lady in New Zealand whose name escapes me for the moment who is studying the New Zealand oysters and according to a recent informant she has decided that the New Zealand Ostrea differs from the Australian. However, her work and evidence have yet to appear. To me the New Zealand oysters do not seem to differ from the Australian specimens any more than the Australians differ amongst themselves along the two thousand miles of coast line where they occur. Therefore I would lump the two under O. angasi. If further study reveals that the Australian is different from the New Zealand species it would be a moot point whether the name sinuata could be applied to it. Despite its distorted shape I feel that the type specimen of Ostrea sinuata is a Crassostrea because of the definite recess under the hinge. It would follow that the Australian Ostrea could not be sinuata. This would leave the species without a valid name.

Of the 4 species of Ostrea that I recognize as valid, I have had specimens of three with the larval forms still in the chamber. The species for which I have no direct evidence of incubation is Ostrea folium. I should be interested to learn whether you believe some of the species without pronyal chambers are non-incubatory.

Yours sincerely,

(J.M. Thomson)
The Director.