

, Texas, U.S.A.

February 4, 1949

Dr. H. A. Cole  
Fisheries Experiment Station  
Castle Bank  
Conway, Caernarvonshire, Wales

Dear Dr. Cole:

Thank you for the second reprint of your article which arrived safely. Your letter of January 1 has also arrived.

Concerning the genera of the family Ostreidae, I am inclined to use them in a strongly restricted sense because my studies seem to indicate that there are definite traceable phyletic lines and there are groups that can be separated neatly. Gryphaea as defined by me is indeed not sufficiently wide to include living forms. The Portuguese and eastern Atlantic oysters from the U.S.A. differ so much from the European Ostrea edulis that they should be in separate genera. The genus Crassostrea is certainly available for the American and Portuguese oysters. However, it is possible that Ostreola is an earlier name and available. It would be necessary to check the genotype species Ostreola stentina Payraudeau from the western Mediterranean and Adriatic. If that species is related to the Portuguese oyster, Ostreola should be used. Have you ever seen the Ostreola stentina, and is it perhaps known that the species has a prymal chamber? If nothing is known of the soft parts, one could probably decide this question by shell characters. May I suggest that you write to Dr. L. R. Cox and Mr. J. R. le B. Tomlin at the British Museum of Natural History, London, S.W. 7, and ask them to look up Ostrea stentina and decide whether it is related to the Portuguese oyster or not. Whatever you find out about this matter would be of considerable interest to me, of course.

I could use some shells of Ostrea edulis and the Portuguese oyster for study. Would it be asking too much for you to send me some representative specimens or series of both? I certainly would appreciate them.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel  
Geologist

HBS:etm