

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91109

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

May 21, 1965


Dr. H. B. Stenzel
Shell Development Company
P. O. Box 481
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Henzyk:

Thank you very much for the Crassostrea specimens and in particular for the protoconches of C. virginica. They are most welcome for our current study of the shell chemistry of larval shells. Under separate cover I am sending you a reprint dealing among others with some oysters and also two oysters from Palau, Caroline Islands. One of the Palau specimens is, if correctly identified by me, Lopha cristagalli, the other is a Crassostrea but I was unable with the literature at hand to identify the species. Can you give me an identification on it and also let me know if the Lopha is properly assigned?

As to the definition of hypostracum, I understand that Oberling in his thesis and in his paper, Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. 45:128, states that the term ~~hypo~~^{hypo}stracum is ambiguous, and Durham claims he is right in substituting ~~hypo~~^{hypostracum} for hypostracum. It would be helpful if you specialists in the field would come up with a generally agreed term so that people like me could use it without getting rebuffed.

Cordially yours,


H. A. Lowenstam
Professor of Paleoecology

HAL:rjv