

## GEOLOGICAL NOTES

---

### PROBABLE AGE OF APTYCHUS-BEARING FORMATIONS OF CUBA

Organic limestones and shales, many of them petroliferous, which contain ammonite aptychi, occur in the upper portion of the Jurassic series in the mountains northwest of Artemisa in Pinar del Rio Province. Numerous exposures of similar aptychus-bearing rocks are found within areas of Cretaceous rocks throughout the entire island. For the most part these exposures are too small to permit their appearance on a small scale map, but they do indicate that these organic and petroliferous rocks are present below most of the younger sediments.<sup>1</sup>

Marjorie O'Connell has published photographs and descriptions of these aptychi.<sup>2</sup> She states that they were taken from shales which appear to belong to the upper portion of the Jurassic series of eastern Pinar del Rio Province. Her opinion is that they are of either late Jurassic or early Cretaceous age with strong paleontological evidence pointing to the latter conclusion.

The writer has discussed the age of these fossils with several paleontologists who are familiar with the ammonites of both Europe and Mexico. The general attitude on this subject is well expressed in a letter from Gayle Scott in which the following is stated:

...we have talked over the problem a number of times since listening to your...paper.<sup>3</sup> At that time, I recall, some one was taking the position that these Aptychus beds were *Upper* Cretaceous. I could not subscribe to this idea at all. Aptychus does occur in the Upper Cretaceous in a few places, for example Japan, but they are apparently the aptychi of *Scaphites* and not like those of Cuba.

To me the Cuba forms are for the most part between the well known Jurassic and Cretaceous types. Under the circumstances I think that they are not particularly conclusive, and if I had good evidence for thinking the rocks of Jurassic age I should certainly stick to that idea until some conclusive evidence to the contrary is brought forward.

<sup>1</sup>J. Whitney Lewis, "Geology of Cuba," *Bull. Amer. Assoc. Petrol. Geol.*, Vol. 10, No. 6 (June, 1932), pp. 533-55.

<sup>2</sup>Marjorie O'Connell, "New Species of Ammonite Opercula from the Mesozoic Rocks of Cuba," *Amer. Museum Novitates*, No. 28 (1921).

<sup>3</sup>J. Whitney Lewis, *op. cit.*

The fact that no occurrences of aptychi in the Cretaceous rocks of either the Antilles or the mainland of the Americas have been reported to date is also important. The evidence now available seems to point strongly to the conclusion that these fossils are late Jurassic in age.

J. WHITNEY LEWIS

1432 VICTORIA AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
July 20, 1932

---

#### HIGH ISLAND DOME, GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

##### CORRECTION

In the July *Bulletin*, page 701, in M. T. Halbouty's note, "High Island Dome, Galveston County, Texas," the sentence beginning in the eighth line of the second paragraph should read: "The Yount-Lee Oil Company's Cade No. 22, located 740 feet W. of E. line," et cetera.

---

#### REGIONAL STRUCTURE OF CRETACEOUS ON EDWARDS PLATEAU OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS

##### CORRECTION

In the July *Bulletin*, page 699, in Lon D. Cartwright's article, "Regional Structure of Cretaceous on Edwards Plateau of Southwest Texas," the last word in the first paragraph should be *plateau* instead of platform.