



THREE HORIZONS OF *OSTREA GEORGIANA* CONRAD IN THE CLAIBORNE EOCENE OF SOUTH TEXAS

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(Abstract)

Reefs of fossil oysters occur commonly in the Claiborne section of south Texas. These reefs form resistant, outcropping ridges which are traceable for miles along the outcrops. Three horizons based on varieties of the fossil, *Ostrea georgiana* Conrad, are here presented: The lowest horizon contains a narrow elongate variety of the raccoon-tongue type that averages 7-9 in. in length. This horizon occurs 390 ft. below the top of the Cook Mountain formation. The second horizon is characterized by a 4-ft. reef containing an exceptionally large, elongate, curved, and slender form of the raccoon-tongue type, attaining the length of 20 in. or more. This horizon occurs 45 ft. below the top of the Cook Mountain formation. The third and uppermost horizon is characterized by a reef whose dominant oyster is the large, flat, flaring variety, the original *O. georgiana* Conrad. Some of these attain a length of 18 in. or more, though generally smaller. This horizon is 275 ft. above the base of the Cockfield formation and 220 ft. below the base of the Jackson Eocene.

