

We were
wary
of

MARTESIA STRIATA!

The object of our concern was a small, wedge-shaped mollusk found in southern waters where we planned to lay telephone cables.

Like others of its genus *Martesia* (of the family *Pholadidae*), it is a borer.

Usually it bores into limestone or some other substance to find a home.

Would it—could it—bore into our undersea cables?

At the time, we were testing the performances of proposed dielectric

materials for undersea cables at various simulated depths, temperatures and ocean pressures. We also tested for resistance to marine biological attack.

The testing showed that our cable covering wouldn't be attractive to pholads, and in nearly fifteen years of experience with undersea telephone cables we have peacefully shared the ocean bottom with them.

But we had to be sure we could. In the telephone business, reliability is

everything. We must do all we can to safeguard service from interruption. No threat is too small to ignore, not even that posed by a tiny mollusk.

Right now we've got other problems.

Out in the Dakotas, hungry squirrels and field mice are nibbling on our wires.

We have to run.



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