

SERTULARIA SETACEA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Flores Hydræ.

Stirps radicata, fibrosa, nuda, articulata : articulis unifloris.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1306.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

SERTULARIA simplex pinnata, pinnis alternis subincurvatis, denticulis obsoletis remotissimis secundis, ovariis oblongo-tubulatis axillaribus.

Ellis. Zooph. p. 47.

SERTULARIA PINNATA. *β.*

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1312.

Genus Sertulariæ, exemplum admirabile exstat animalis sub specie vegetabilis. Tam apprime enim plantas repræsentant pleræque Sertulariæ species, ut pene ab omnibus pro muscis marinis habitæ, itaque ab historiæ naturalis studiosis descriptæ sint. Solertissimus autem nuper defunctus ELLISIUS plane probavit hæc simulata vegetabilia veras esse hydras, seu polypos marinos ; ab hydris aquarum dulcium in hoc differentes, quod habeant corneam velut thecam corporum ramulos

los cingentem, defendentemque ab omnibus injuriis quas in elemento tam turbido et feroci nudæ experirentur.

Sertulariæ rupibus, conchis aliisque, stolonibus, seu radicibus velut repentibus affiguntur; et hoc modo plantis videntur simillimæ. Corpuscula illa ovata, quæ in axillis ramulorum conspiciuntur, pro ovariis ab ELLISIO habentur, credunturque continere ova, et interdum etiam foetus plane formatos. Species Sertulariæ numerosissimæ existant, quarum plures sunt vulgarissimæ.

Species quam hic depingi curavimus ab ELLISIO mutuati sumus, utpote structuræ qualitates peculiares probe exprimentem. Pars animalis, velut medulla, undique per corneam thecam diffusa est; et ex singulo ramulorum denticulo sub forma capitis hydræ protruditur cum suis tentaculis. Ovaria, ut vocat ELLISIUS, in axillis ramorum sita sunt. Sertulariæ, sicut hydræ aquarum dulcium, omnia animalcula prædantur quæ tentaculis suis fors obtulerit.

Fig. 1. Animal magnitudine naturali.

Fig. 2. Idem microscopio auctum.



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THE SMALL SEA-BRISTLE CORALLINE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

A compound Hydra or Polype ramified in the manner of a plant, included in a horny case, and affixed by its base.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SIMPLY PINNATED SERTULARIA, with bent alternate pinnæ furnished with very remote processes growing on one side only, and oblong axillary ovaries.

LITTLE SEA-BRISTLE CORALLINE.

Ellis Zooph. p. 47.

Ellis's Corallines, pl. 38. fig. 4.

The genus Sertularia affords a most curious proof of an animal body under the appearance of a vegetable. So very great is the similarity which most of the species bear to plants, that they have almost universally been regarded as a sort of sea-mosses, and as such have been described by most naturalists; but the late ingenious Mr. ELLIS seems to have clearly proved that these apparent vegetables are no other than real marine polypes or hydras; which differ from the fresh-water polypes in being provided by Nature with a horny case

case or tube, accompanying the ramifications of their bodies, and serving to defend them from the numerous disasters to which they would otherwise be liable, if left naked in the tumultuous element in which they are destined to reside.

They adhere to rocks, shells, &c. by creeping processes, which bear the appearance of spreading roots, and thus contribute still farther to their plant-like aspect. The oval bodies which are so frequently seen seated at the bases of the lateral branches, are supposed by Mr. Ellis to be the ovaries of the animal, containing the eggs, and sometimes the completely-formed young. The species of *Sertularia* are extremely numerous, and are very common.

The species here figured we have copied from the works of Mr. ELLIS, as it serves to shew in the clearest and most distinct manner possible, the several particulars of the supposed structure. The animal part like a medulla or pith, is every where seen through the transparent horny coat ; and at every denticulation of the branches it is protruded in the form of a polype-head with its tentacula. The supposed ovaries are situated in the axillæ of the branches. The *Sertulariæ*, like the fresh-water polypes, prey on such small animalcules as happen to fall in the way of their tentacula.

Fig. 1. represents the animal in its natural size,

Fig. 2. shews it magnified by a microscope.



Shaw, George. 1791. "The Small Sea-Bristle Coralline, Sertularia setacea [Pl. 71]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 2(XXIII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310722>.

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