ISIS NOBILIS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Stirps lapidea, rigida.

Flores Hydræ e poris lateralibus.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

ISIS stirpe corallina æquali continua, striis obsoletis obliquis, ramis vagis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1288.

CORALLIUM RUBRUM.

Baub. pin. 366.

GORGONIA PRETIOSA.

Ellis. Zooph. p. 90.

Isis nobilis, seu Corallium vulgare rubrum, e substantiis illis marinis est quæ, communi fere physicorum recentium consensu, ab animalibus hydras seu polypos quodammodo referentibus effingi creduntur. Degunt hæc animalia in cavitatibus istis quæ in cortice corallii molli et subereo frequenter conspiciuntur; eorumque vestigia paulatim distantia punctisque similia in superficie etiam durissima imprimuntur, omnibus corallii ipsius ramusculis striis longitudinalibus ab ipsa basi extrinsecus notatis. Fatendum sane est non mediocri fide opus esse ut omnia Lithophyta ab animalibus incolentibus

bus revera et omnino formari persuasum habeamus. Cum vero nostrum non sit notissimas Domini Ellisii observationes in dubium vocare, gaudeant volumus lectores suis sententiis, statuantque ipsi an inter animalia an vegetabilia substantias hasce fatius sit numerare: ad utraque enim miro modo videntur pertinere. Notandum est specimina corallii rubri, quo formosiora videntur, cortice exteriori, ut plurimum, denudari. Depingitur igitur ramulus cortice obductus juxta ipsam naturam. *Fig. 2.*

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London, Published Oct^r 1791 by F. P. Nothier & Co. N^o 25 Brewer Street.

RED CORAL,

GENERIC CHARACTER.

The *Coral* having the habit or appearance of a plant.

The *Stem*, or internal part, differing in the different species, and generally either of a horny or a stony appearance.

The *cortical part* soft, and inhabited by animals resembling polypes.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

BRIGHT-RED STONY-BRANCHED CORAL, with longitudinal striae.

COMMON RED CORAL.

The *Isis nobilis*, or common red Coral, is one of those numerous submarine productions which, by the almost general consent of modern naturalists, are regarded as the fabrication of animals resembling polypes, which reside in the cavities so constantly seen in the soft or cortical part of the coral; and the impressions or vestiges of which are visible even on the surface of the hard part or the coral itself; being generally seated at distant intervals, and appearing like small impressed spots, while
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the whole coral, throughout all its ramifications, is marked externally by longitudinal striae proceeding from the very base itself. It must be candidly confessed that a good share of philosophical faith is necessary to reconcile us to the idea of all the coral tribe being entirely the work of animals: yet as we cannot presume to controvert the well-known observations of Mr. Ellis, we shall leave our readers to their own opinions, and at perfect liberty to regard these curious substances either as belonging to the animal or vegetable kingdom, to both of which they seem to be strangely allied. It is necessary to observe that the specimens of red coral as generally seen, have, in order to increase the beauty of their appearance, been deprived of their cortical or exterior coat. A branch in its natural state, or with its exterior coat, is represented at *fig. 2.* in the annexed plate.

Shaw, George. 1791. "Red Coral, *Isis nobilis* [Pl. 82]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 3(XXVII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304502>.

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