TUBIPORA MUSICA.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Animal Nereis ?

Corallium tubis cylindricis, cavis, erectis, parallelis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1270.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

TUBIPORA tubis fasciculatis combinatis: diffipimentis transversis membranaceis distantibus.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1270.

PSEUDO-CORALLIUM RUBRUM.

Aldr. mus. 291.

ALCYONIUM FISTULOSUM RUBRUM.

Bauh. hist. 3. p. 808. fig. 2.

TUBULARIA PURPUREA.

Tourn. inst. t. 342.

Iis lithophytis annumerandum est hoc corallium quorum si formam generalem spectes, vix possit dubitari quin ab animalibus effecta sint. Constat quippe tota massa e tubulis erectis et parallelis, alio super alium gradatim assurgente, qualiter fere fit in cellulis apum. Septa transversa quibus tuborum strata connectuntur, ascendunt inæqualiter in variis partibus, tubis ipsis raro unciam,

unciam, interdum semiunciam altis, eorundem diametro nunc decimam nunc octavam pollicis partem attingente. Ab hac tamen proportionē in diversis speciminibus longe deceditur. Vera animalium incolentium natura vix adhuc pro certo explorata est: ea tamen putat Linnæus Nereidibus vix ac ne vix differre. Speciem hac pulchriorem vix fortasse inveniēmus in toto genere corallino: structuræ enim ipsius elegantiam mire auget color suaviter purpureus seu phoeniceus. Si singuli tubi accuratius inspiciantur, patebit eorum unumquemque tubulum minorem geniculis aliquot seu septis radiatis divisum continere, cujus ope diversis stratis sæpe cum se invicem communicatur. In magnam molem sese extendit formosum hoc corallium, nec defuere specimina quæ pedes duos immo tres diametro superarunt. Cum adhuc sit recens, tota superficies exterior gelata seu mucosa substantia obducitur, quæ etiam per partes tubulatas quodammodo diffundi videtur. Magna Tubiporæ mu-
ficæ est copia circa littora insularum Indicarum nec non maris Pacifici.

Fig. 1, Pars aperta, et microscopio aucta, ut structura interior pateat.

Fig. 2, 3, 4, Tubuli separati magnitudine naturali.

CRIMSON TUBIPORE,

OR

ORGAN CORAL.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Animal allied (probably) to the genus *Nereis*.

Coral consisting of erect cylindric parallel tubes.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

TUBIPORE with fasciculated connected tubes,
and distant transverse membranaceous dissepiments.

Argenv. conch. t. 26. fig. A.

Ellis Zooph. p. 144. t. 27.

This is one of those Lithophytes which in structure and general appearance seem plainly to indicate the operation of animals, the whole mass consisting of an assortment of upright parallel tubes, rising over each other by stages, somewhat in the manner of the cells of an honeycomb. The stages or transverse dissepiments by which the strata of tubes are connected, are of unequal heights in different parts of the mass, and the tubes of each stratum seldom rise to the height of an inch, and sometimes do not exceed half an inch, and their diameter is from about a tenth to an eighth of an

an inch. In different specimens however there is a considerable variation, both in the proportional length and diameter of the tubes. The real nature of the inhabiting animals of these tubes is not clearly ascertained, but they are supposed by Linnæus to be strongly allied to Nereides. In point of beauty scarce any of the coral tribe can exceed the present species; the colour, which is a rich purple or deep crimson, highly increasing the elegance of the fabric. The individual tubes, when accurately examined, appear each furnished with a smaller internal tube, which is divided at certain distances by radiated diaphragms or partitions. By means of these internal tubes the different strata often communicate with each other. This curious coral extends itself to a very considerable size; specimens having been frequently seen of from one to three feet in diameter. In its recent state the whole upper surface is coated over by a mucous or gelatinous substance, which seems to pervade the tubular texture of the whole coral. The *tubipora musica* is produced in the greatest abundance about the shores of the East-Indian islands and those of the Pacific Ocean.

Fig. 1, A piece laid open and magnified by the microscope, in order to shew the interior structure.

Fig. 2, 3, 4, Separate tubes of their natural size.

Shaw, George. 1792. "Crimson Tubipore or Organ Coral, Tubipora musica [Pl. 98]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 3(XXXII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304518>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/279090>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304518>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/304518>

Holding Institution

Museums Victoria

Sponsored by

Atlas of Living Australia

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.