

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner: letter of 29th May 1811

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My dear Sir,

I have from day to day delayed writing to you, expecting the arrival of M^r Borrer's opinion of the Lichens & the engraving. I did not get them till last night. One day before they came I got those engravings of *Jungermannia* beautifully done. They were all very fine. I am quite delighted with them. I cannot tell you how often I have admired them, & how often I think of your kindness & attention in sending them to me. I have been all the morning examining the *Jungermannia* I have collected & enclose you some varieties that puzzle me much. I begin to feel very doubtful that N^o 29 is a variety of *J. Byssacea* [now called *Cephaloziella divaricata*, Common Threadwort] I sent it to you [text missing]. It flowers in spring. *Byssacea* in October. The whole plant is much more rigid, leaves tiled [tilted?] & pointing rather to the stem than expanding as in *Byssacea*. The fertile [as?] [?] short necks [?] throws out roots just under the involucre [?] [] shoots of *Byssacea* are upright I think. I don't know what to make of N^o. 35. It can't be I suppose *J. Tamariscifolia*. It adheres closely to the trunks of the trees on which it grows & forms large patches. I shall be delighted to send you all I can get here for your collection. Pray tell me which you want & I will send them or would you like all common & rare that grow in this neighbourhood. The following species I gather here.

epiphylla	tomentella
pusilla	concinata
furcata	trichophylla
sinuata	curvifolia
multifida	pumila
punguis	crenulata
asplenioides	minutissima
bidentata	
quinquedentata	

sphæroliphall [?]

spinulosa

multiflora

pauciflora

nemorosa

albicans

cochleariformis

reptans

complanata

dilatata

Tamariscifolia

incisa

I shall be very glad to get any others that M^r. Hooker can spare quite conveniently - I have just made up a plant of *Pinguicula grandiflora* for Lady Aylesford & I have taken the chance of sending one to you under cover to the Bishop of Norwich & directed to Norwich. I suppose it quite a chance that you get it safe, but I thought it worth trying as I was anxious you should see it fresh. I am drying a fine store for you. The bifid nectary is I have no doubt constant. I have found it so in hundreds of flowers, in some much more striking than in others, but visible to some degree in all. I have so many things to thank you for, I don't know how or where to begin. For your kind letters I always thank you most warmly, tho' I am a little angry that you did not tell me in the last how M^{rs}. Turner was. From your not mentioning I conclude as I wish that she is well & that your mind is at ease on her account. When I look over the Lichens again with M^r Borrer's opinion I shall have a good deal to say. I have a few more species by me for you. If the weather would moderate I should try to go to the mountains. I expect to do something during the course of next month. I have several little excursions but the weather is desperate for every thing & what is worst of all for the poor people's potatoes for you know when we want potatoes we want every thing. I am afraid the poor will starve next year. I enclose a specimen of a *Sagina* [Pearlwort] that I cannot make out. It grows by the sea shore only, has thick blunt fleshy leaves. I have more drying. Pray tell me if the Bishop is at Norwich that I may send little things through him.

[possibly a line of text not visible at head of cross-hatched section]

I have just got a letter & some Lichens from Sir Thomas Gage. He has got a great deal at Killarney. I shall carefully collect for you all the Lichens you want. I am very much obliged for your thinking so much of giving me pleasure & amusement by sending the books that interested you. While I feel pleased by your kindness, I cannot help feeling sorry for being so constantly troublesome. I think I value a good friend now more than ever. I am just going to part from the oldest & most intimate acquaintances I have, two Ladies who from some changes that death has made in their family are going to leave the country. I shall now be quite alone in the country - excepting my own family. I feel very melancholy & I am sure I must have already wearied you with this dull letter. In all humours & at all times believe me your faithful friend

E. Hutchins

May 29th 1811