

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner: 22nd September 1810

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I had the pen in my hand to write to you, my dear Sir, when your letter came in. I had spent the morning sketching the enclosed & feeling anxious that you should see those more highly magnified parts of the plants I call Rivulariae determined to send them to you without delay. I hope you will be pleased with them & think them correct of those plants I sent you last year drawings of the natural size & parts not sufficiently magnified to give a clear idea of the mode of growth. Of what I now send added to the former will I hope give you a good view. I do not think the drawings I sent of *Ulva rubens* & *Riv vermiculata* were good and you shall soon have better. With *Rivularia tuberiformis*, if you should want it. You will observe that the plant sent as *Ulva* No 12 differs from *U rubens* in being composed of a tubular skin from the surface of which appear simple jointed filaments, bearing capsules. No 6 is formed of a number of pellucid colourless tubes curving lengthways through the stem & branches, & throwing out alternate bundles of branched jointed filaments. I have not been able to find capsules, though I have examined a great number of plants but have met with an appearance similar to the fruit of *Conf gelatinosa* which appears to me no more than a collection of young filaments the same I have found in *Ulva elminthoides* which seems formed of branched filaments closely entangled in the middle, becoming thicker & coloured towards the apices. The plants sent as *Ulva verticillata* bear capsules plentifully as well as *U rubens* & *Riv vermiculata*. I very much doubt that the supposed fruit of *Conf gelatinosa* is more than a collection of young shoots. How well it agrees in habit & structure with those beautiful marine plants. I have been greatly vexed at not being able to get a single morsel of *Fucus capillaris* to magnify. It being of the same nature. I have been highly pleased by the discovery of the fruit of *Conf sordida* which is what I have long expected to find it, the same as that of *Conf alternata*. Do you still think No 64 only a variety of *alternata*? I hardly think it can be so. It is so much coarser, its colour bright green & has not the alternately dark and pellucid joints so remarkable in *alternata*. I lately met with more of the new *Anictangium* the last day I was out & with more fruit than before. You shall have some with the next things. You were quite at liberty to do what you pleased with it or anything I have met with. Let me now thank you for your kind concern about me. My last letter will explain the cause of my silence. Since the day I wrote, I have been ill with a bilious attack less severe than usual but enough to prevent me doing any thing until this day. I am truly glad to find you have had the enjoyment of such society as you describe & truly gratified for your kind wish that I should share such pleasure. That of seeing you would have been the highest gratification to me. I feel pleased, though I am sensible that you feel disappointment when you say you wished to be here. You imagine me greatly superior to what I really am, & whenever we do meet, you will be disappointed. I warn you truly of what you have to expect, a friend who will rejoice to see you with the mind & manners of a very retired inhabitant of the mountains, who has seen very few people. I who through having had bad health & many domestic anxieties am more serious than most young people. Now for the country, it's poor soil, mountainous & shales to the shore. There are many pretty peaceful looking spots. Few more so than the little place we inhabit. The view from our door is very soft & pleasing, particularly at evening, when the sun retiring behind a beautiful mountain, Sugarloaf, just guilds the high grounds & leaves the little cove before us in deep, soft shade, or when the moon shines brightly upon it. I often think of the strong & melancholy

contrast between this peaceful, happy looking scene & the restless minds of its inhabitants. I intend to draw *Fucus loreus* next spring tide & when it is done will send it. Tell me of anything I can get or do for you. The *Ophrys* you mentioned I have not seen. I have never met with any but *ovata*. The *Pinguicula* you shall have abundantly in spring. The specimens I have are not the very best, & on that account, I don't send them. It abounds in this place. Pray send me a specimen of *Ophrys ovata* for perhaps I have mistaken yet I hardly think I have. I gave specimens of mine to Mr Drummond when he was here. He seemed glad to get them & if the species you speak of was sent by Mr Hincks from this part of the country, it may be mine. I would enclose a specimen, but that I don't wish to put it in with the enclosure in this letter. I am glad Mr Hooker is about to publish his Iceland tour & I hope to he will publish the *Jungermanniae* before he leaves England. It will be very mortifying if he does not after having prepared for it. I am slowly collecting Lichens I can but creep & have a few more to send you. I have planned two or three little expeditions to the mountains for next week. Sir Thomas Gage sends me Lichens from Killarney, which must be a fine situation for them, the rocks being limestone. I am greatly obliged to you for the specimens of *Confervae*. I shall be busy examining them tomorrow. I am particularly glad to get *Riv argolosa* to compare with ours, which I have lately found in a fine state on sea rocks, covering large patches & some what like the beginning of *Riv tuberiformis*. I am curious to hear of the last parcel I sent you. It is full time both for you & me that I should cease to write. The clock has struck one & all the house are asleep except your obliged and faithful friend E Hutchins, September 22, 1810

I put in a specimen of the *Ophrys* I found here, if that sent to Dr Smith be the same, it was found by me here, and I believe by no other person. It grows in our lawn and one of our fields. I have not seen it elsewhere. I thought it *ovata*. It has a strong smell when fresh. If it is what you want I can draw it next spring.