

LINNÆUS TO ELLIS. [Latin.]

Upsal, April 3, 1761.

By your last letter I perceive, not without astonishment, that you have discovered one of the greatest curiosities perhaps in nature, the hitherto unobserved original of the *Entrochi*, or Columnar *Asterie*, on which pledge of lasting fame I congratulate you with all my heart. But I cannot conceive how a Medusean head can terminate the stem of a zoophyte plant. I wish you had given ever so rude a sketch of it in your letter, for my more perfect information.

Entrochi are either larger or smaller. The larger are surrounded at each joint, as well as in their cortical substance, with a row of tubercles; but their centre is perforated. I have never been able to understand the nature of those tubercles. But I received last autumn a very singular stalk of a petrified *Entrochus*, as you may see by the figure annexed *, of the natural size. The stem consists of compound joints, formed of the larger kind of *Entrochi*. The tubercles surrounding each joint have been numerous whorled branches, which gradually fall off, as in trees, and have disappeared. The upper branches still remain. These are narrow and forked, destitute of joints, or rather of elbows, and smooth. In this specimen, however, the stem is not angular, nor are the branches five together in a whorl. These branches are what have been termed

* This figure does not appear.