

upper: the fructifications, or seed vessels, are placed on the back of the pinnæ or lobes of the leaf, and form a row of three or four on each side of the midrib: at first they are yellowish, and are covered with a thin membrane, which when at maturity bursts, and discharges the contents over the other leaves.

It is common in this country, and is usually found on old walls and rocks in moist and shaded situations.

This plant we figure on the authority of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia.

The leaves have a mucilaginous sweetish subastringent taste, without any particular flavour; they are esteemed useful in disorders of the breast, proceeding from a thickness and acrimony of the juices; and are likewise supposed to promote the expectoration of tough phlegm, and to open obstructions of the viscera. They are usually directed in effusion or decoction, with the addition of a little liquorice. A syrup prepared from them, though it has now no place in our pharmacopœias, is frequently to be met with in our shops, both as prepared at home and imported from abroad. A little of these syrups mixed with water makes a very pleasant draught. The syrup brought from abroad has an admixture of orange flower-water.^a

^a *Ed. N. Dispens. p. 209.*

LICHEN ISLANDICUS. ERYNGO-LEAVED LICHEN.

SYNONYMA. Lichen islandicus. *Pharm. Edinb.* Lichen foliis oblongis laciniatis: marginibus conniventibus ciliatis. *Flor. Lapp. p. 445. Roy. Lugdb. p. 508. Hall. Stirp. Helv. 75. Lichen terrestris, foliis eryngii. Buxb. cent. 2. p. 11. t. 6. f. 1. 2. Lichenoides rigidum, eryngii folia referens. Dill. Hist. Musc. p. 209. t. 28. f. 111. Lichenoides islandicum, Hoffm. Pl. Lichenos. vol. 1. fasc. 2. tab. 9. f. 1. p. 41. Flor. Dan. 155. Giske 50. Mich. t. 44. f. 4. Conf. Withering. Bot. Arr. p. 196. Class*



Lichen islandicus

Deligned by Dr. Woodville. Nov. 1. 1790.

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Class Cryptogamia. *Ord.* Algæ. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 1202.

Eff. Gen. Ch. Masc. Receptaculum subrotundum, planiusculum, nitidum.

FEM. Farina foliis adsperfa.

D. Foliacei.

Sp. Ch. *L. foliaceus* ascendens laciniatus: marginibus elevatis ciliatis.

THIS Lichen is foliaceous, erect, large: the leaves are crowded, connected together, tough, membranous, two or three inches long, variously sinuated, or divided into irregular blunt lobes, turned in at the edges, and fringed with short strong bristles: the surface is smooth, shining, channelled, and of a pale green or brown colour: the fructifications or scutella are large, of a reddish brown colour, and placed on the lobes of the leaves. It is a native of Britain, particularly on the mountains of Wales and Scotland.

The medicinal qualities of the Lichen Islandicus have lately been so well established at Vienna, that this plant is now admitted into the *Materia Medica* of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia. It is extremely mucilaginous, and to the taste is bitter and somewhat astringent: its bitterness, as well as the purgative quality which it manifests in its recent state, are in a great measure dissipated on drying, or may be extracted by a slight infusion in water, so that the inhabitants of Iceland convert it into a tolerably grateful and nutritive food. An ounce of this Lichen, boiled a quarter of an hour in a pint of water, yielded seven ounces of a mucilage as thick as that procured by the solution of one part of gum arabic in three of water.

The medical virtues of this Lichen were probably first learned from the Icelanders, who employ it in its fresh state as a laxative,* but when deprived of this quality, and properly prepared, we are told that it is an efficacious remedy in consumptions, coughs, dysenteries, and diarrhæas. Scopoli seems to have been the first who of late years

* See Borrichius in Bartholini, *Act. Med. Hafn.* 1671. p. 126. *Olafsen Reise igien-nem Island.* tom. i. p. 159.

called the attention of physicians to this remedy in consumptive disorders;^b and further instances of its success are related by Herz,^c Cramer,^d Tromsdorff,^e Ebeling,^f Paulizky,^g Stoll,^h and others, who bear testimony of its efficacy in most of the other complaints above mentioned. Dr. Herz says, that since he first used the Lichen in dysentery, he found it so successful that he never had occasion to employ any other remedy; it must be observed, however, that cathartics and emetics were always repeatedly administered before he had recourse to the Lichen, to which he also occasionally added opium.

Dr. Crichton informs us,ⁱ that during seven months residence at Vienna he had frequent opportunities of seeing the Lichen Islandicus tried in phthisis pulmonalis at the General Hospital, and confesses, "that it by no means answered the expectation he had formed of it." He adds, however, "From what I have seen, I am fully convinced in my own mind, that there are only two species of this disease where this sort of Lichen promises a cure. The two species I hint at, are the *phthisis hæmoptoica*, and the *phthisis pituitosa*, or *mucosa*. In several cases of these I have seen the patients so far get the better of their complaints as to be dismissed the hospital cured; but whether they remained long so or not I cannot take upon me to say." That this Lichen strengthens the digestive powers, and proves extremely nutritious, there can be no doubt; but the great medicinal efficacy attributed to it at Vienna will not readily be credited at London. It is commonly given in the form of a decoction; an ounce and a half of the Lichen being boiled in a quart of milk. Of this a tea-cupful is directed to be drank frequently in the course of the day. If milk disagree with the stomach, a simple decoction of the Lichen in water is to be used. Care ought to be taken that it be boiled over a slow fire, and not longer than a quarter of an hour.

^b *Ann. hist. nat.* i. 1769. p. 112. & *Ann.* ii. p. 141.

^c *Briefe an Aerzte*, vol. 2.

^d *Diss. de Lichene Islandico*.

^e *Diss. de Lichene Islandico*.

^f *Diss. de Quassia et Lichene Islandico*.

^g *Med. Pract. Beob.* 2. Samml. 104.

^h *Rat. Med.* P. 2.

ⁱ See *Medical Journal*, vol. 10. p. 233.

JUNIPERUS LYCIA.