

## CYMODOCEA,\* Lamouroux.

CHARACTER. " *Plant-like ; cells cylindrical, varying in length, filiform, alternate or opposite ; stem fistular, marked with rings below, plain above, and without interior division.*"

1. *C. SIMPLEX*, stems simple, slightly undulated, twig-like ; cells long and filiform, alternate. Dawson Turner.†

*Cymodocea simplex*, Lamour. Cor. Flex. 216, pl. 7, fig. 2. Corallina, 95, pl. 7, fig. 2.—La Cymodocee simple, Blainv. Actinolog. 487. pl. 81, fig. 4.

*Hab.* The sea near Yarmouth, and in Ireland, Turner.

Height nearly three inches : colour a yellow-fawn.

2. *C. COMATA*, stems straight, cylindrical, almost simple ; branchlets capillary, whorled, numerous, flexuous, jointed and celliferous. Dr Leach.‡

*Cymodocea comata*, Lamour. Ellis and Soland. Zooph. 15, pl. 67, fig. 12, 13. Flem. Brit. Anim. 551.—La C. chevelue, Blainv. Actinolog. 487.

*Hab.* Coast of Devonshire, Leach.

Height about one decimetre : colour yellowish. At each joint of the branchlets there is a short cell ringed at its base, and almost invisible to the naked eye.

I have seen no authentic specimen of either species, the above descriptions being translated from the works of Lamouroux. He says that *Cymodocea* has the closest relations with *Tubularia*, from which, however, it differs in the position of the polype-cells which are placed, not at the top of the branches, but upon these branches or upon their divisions. From this circumstance Lamouroux classes the genus amongst the *Sertulariadae*, to which alliance the absence of ovarian vesicles seems opposed, nor can we hope to locate the genus with any certainty until the polypes have been discovered. The very existence of the genus has in fact been ques-

\* The name of one of the sea-nymphs into which the ships of Æneas were changed by Cybele.

† D. Turner, Esq. of Yarmouth, F. L. S. :—very eminent for his knowledge of cryptogamic botany, and for his skill in antiquities. He is the author of a beautiful work on the Fuci. The genus *Dawsonia* of Robert Brown is a just tribute to his merit.

‡ William Elford Leach—a naturalist of most indomitable enthusiasm and very extraordinary acquirements. He died in Italy in 1836, of cholera. " We may say, with respect to the extent and effect of his zoological labours,—Nihil non tetigit, et omnia quæ tetigit ornavit."—Kirby.