

A further account of some Rock-plants growing in the Lead Mines of Mendip Hills, mention'd in the Philosophical Transactions, Numb. 129. by the ingenious Mr. John Beaumont jun. of Stony-Easton in Sommerfet shire.

S I R,

I Sent two Letters, some years since, to Mr. *Oldenburg*, in which I gave him an account of certain *Rock-plants* which I had observ'd to grow in the Lead mines of *Mendip-Hills* in *Sommerfetshire*: which Letters he Printed in his *Philosophical Transactions*, Numb. 129. I then complain'd of my want of an Artist, whereby I might have furnish'd him with the design of those *Rock-plants* which I here describe; such design being little less than absolutely necessary, for giving a clear and satisfactory Apprehension of the things there express'd: Wherefore my present Residence being in *London*, and being gratified in that respect by the skilful hand of the ingenious *Richard Waller* Esquire, a Member of the *Royal Society*; I conceiv'd (tho' I had now little to add to the descriptions of those *Rock-plants* which I formerly gave) that this curious design which I here present you, would not be unacceptable to those Persons, whose *Genius* leads them to consider these things.

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The particulars set forth in these Figures, more than what have been observ'd by other men, in reference to those Rock-plants, are as follows.

1. *A Curious Radix somewhat more entire than elsewhere to be found, on which those Rock-plants sometimes grow, tho' it be manifest that they often grow also from plain Roots.*
2. *Several diversified tops of other Radix's.*
3. *The manifest tapering of those Rock-plants.*
4. *Bores of those Rock-plants, with four, six, and seven inlets in them; together with other differences in their Rays, and Joyntings.*

The particular Explanation of the *Figures* you will find beneath, tho' it be but short, and not so full as the descriptions I have given of those *Rock-plants* in my former Letters, to which I remit the Curious Reader.

The main consideration concerning these figur'd Stones, which I call *Rock-plants*, is, whether they are parts of Plants, or Animals petrified, or *lapides sui generis*, to which latter opinion I incline: Indeed the figur'd roots on which these *Rock-plants* sometimes grow (as appears by the impressions of Rays on their tops, answering to those in the Joynts of the Plants, and by the impressions of oval Joynts there) may give us some suspicion that they once belong'd to an Animal, whether it were a *species* of the *Stella Arborefcens*, or some other; but those trunks of stone Plants which you will find in the design, cannot be looked upon as parts of Animals, with the least shew of probability, and I think them almost as hardly reducible to any known *species* of Vegetables; considering that besides the bores of some of these with four, five, six, and seven inlets in them, and besides their admirably diversified joyntings, scarce either of them to be matcht in any Vegetable; I have by me above twenty, if not thirty *spe-*

ues of these *Rock plants*, differing outwardly from each other in their Joyns, Knots, and Sutures, all observing a wonderful regularity, and not one of them to be parallel'd by any Vegetable that I know of in nature. To answer this by saying that all these *species* are lost, I doubt will satisfie few, especially when we consider that these *Rock-plants* are not peculiar to any one place, as to *Mendip-Hills*, &c. but are generally found wherever Lead-Mines are (and sometime where there are no Mines) as well in *England*, as in foreign Countries; and therefore tho' we may suppose that some particular *species* of Plants growing only in some determinate place may happen to be lost; we cannot well imagine how so many *species* diffus'd through so many parts of the whole earth, should all happen to be lost together: So that upon the whole this seems to me a considerable objection, against those who maintain that all figur'd Stones in the Earth are petrefactions of Plants or Animals, to which Opinion *Steno*, in his dissertation concerning Solids naturally contain'd within Solids, adheres. In which Tract many ingenious things are said as well in reference to such petrefactions, as to the frame and several changes of the Earth in general, from whence many aposite Queries may be drawn to be propos'd to judicious Miners in all parts who seem the most likely men for helping to bring these points to a determination, they being the best able to give an account of matter of Fact. I cannot but take notice here that Mr. *Hooke*, a worthy Member of the *Royal Society*, and well known among the ingenious of *Europe*, has a long time been of that opinion which *Steno* endeavours to make out, and as Mr. *Oldenburg* declares in his Preface to his *Translation of Steno*, a long time before *Steno's* book came forth, he had Discourses ready upon that very Argument, which by reason of some Avocations he had not set his last Hand to: And we may hope, that notwithstanding this Anticipation may be some discouragement, he may some time be prevail'd with to,

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communicate them to the Publick; this being an Argument which requires more Hands than one to bring it to a clear issue, and highly deserving the Considerations of the most Ingenious. I am,

London July 3^d.
1683.

SIR,

Your very Humble Servant,

John Beaumont.

THE
EXPLANATION
OF THE
FIGURES

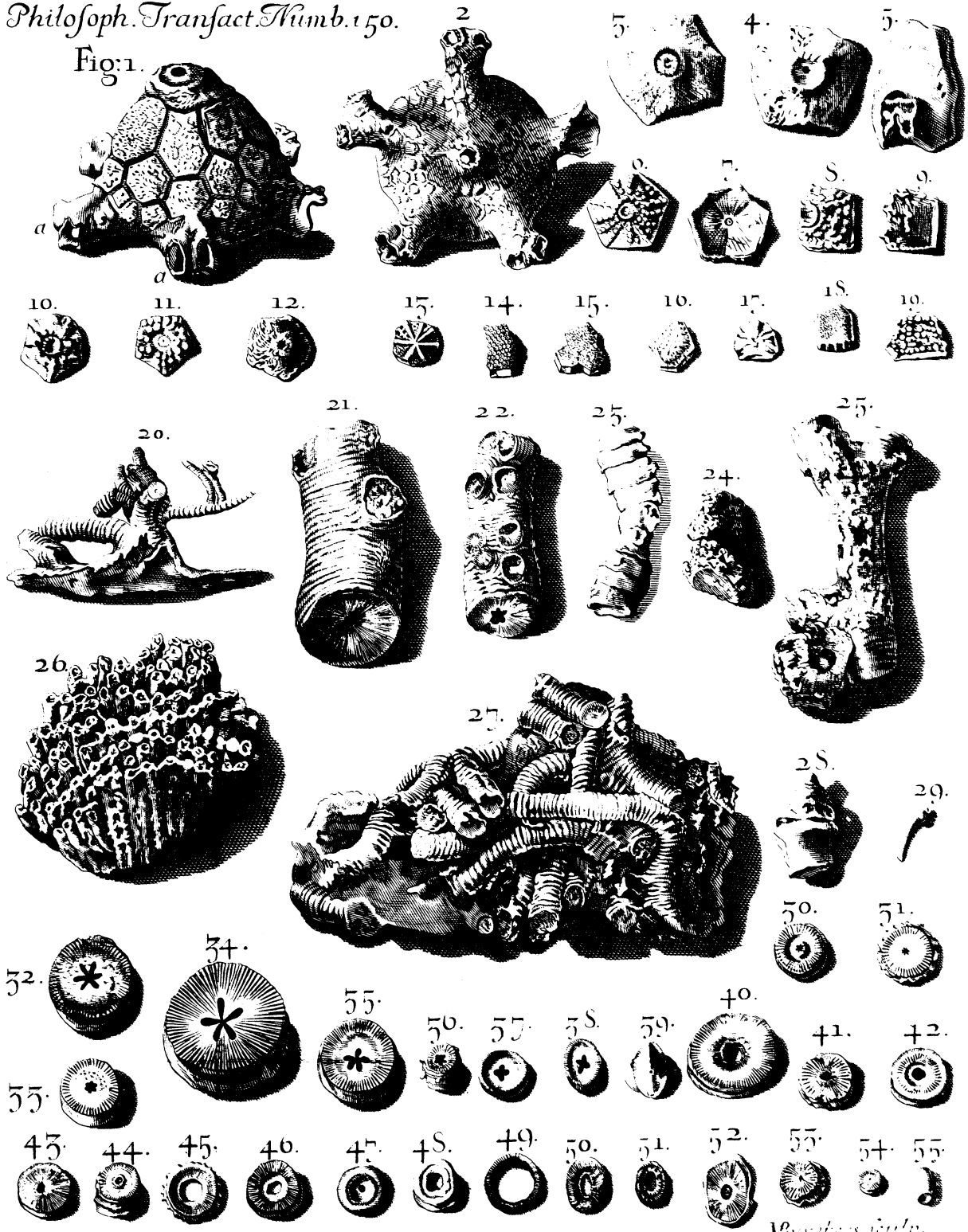
FIGURE 1.

AN Entire Radix. a a Foreseams in two of the feet
wanting in Mr. Lister's Figures.

2. The same Radix inverted.
3. A broken piece of a Radix with Rays on the top.
4. The inside of the same.
5. A Plate of a Radix with the impression of an oval joynt on the top.
6. The top of a Radix with Rays, and the Plates curiously wrought.
7. The

7. *The inside of the same.*
 - 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. *Other tops of Radix's.*
 - 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. *Several sorts of Plates that compose the Radix's.*
 20. *A Rock-plant growing from a plain root, branched several ways, and tapering.*
 - 21, 22. *Two trunks of Rock-plants tapering, and with marks of branches torn off.*
 23. *A Rock-plant with oval Joynts growing twisting.*
 24. *Another Plant with oval Joynts growing on a scabrous root.*
 25. *A trunk of a Rock-plant growing without joynt, like Coral.*
 26. *Sprouts of Mineral Coral growing in a heap together.*
 27. *An intorted heap of Rock-plants growing on a piece of Lime-stone Rock, somewhat resembling the others, being thick set with edges, but having no Joynts.*
 - 28, 29. *Two pieces of the Summirates or Fastigia mentioned by Mr. Lister in the Philosoph. Transact. Numb. 100.*
 - 30, 31. *Two single Joynts of Rock-plants with seven Inletts in the Bore.*
 - 32, 33. *Two single Joynts with six Inletts in the Bore.*
 - 34, 35, 36. *Three Joynts with five Inletts in the Bore.*
 - 37, 38. *Two single Joynts with four Inletts in the Bore.*
 39. *A single oval Joynt, the oval in the upper part of it, standing clear contrary to the oval in the lower part.*
 - 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55. *Round and oval single Joynts, differing in their Rays, and other ways of Joynting.*
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Fig. 1.



Abraham Sharp.