

B I O L O G Y

R E P O R T
ON DISPERSAL OF PLANTS TO SURTSEY

by

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The present author visited Surtsey two times during 1964 for the purpose of investigating dispersal of plants to the island. The first visit was made on May 21st, the second on October 15th. During both visits a thorough search for macroscopic plants, or parts of plants, was made on the sandy shores of the east, north and north west coasts of the island and on the shores of the Lagoon, into which the sea is reaching during heavy south east and east wind at high water. Because of surf during both visits it was impossible to search for plants on the lava shores of the west, south and south east coasts of the island.

During both visits plant parts were found drifted ashore, just as can be found on the shore almost everywhere in Iceland, but no macroscopic plants were found growing on the coast with the single exception of some filamentous Chlorophyceae species, which were found forming little mats on ashore drifted piece of wood. Most of these plant parts were found on the shore east of the Lagoon.

Parts of the following plant species were found on the island:

On May 21st:

Vascular plants:

Cochlearia officinalis L. Some few fresh green basal leaves, 1 inflorescence and stem with stem leaves and inflorescence.

Elymus arenarius L. 1 old seed.

Ligusticum scoticum L. 3 fresh green basal leaves.

Matricaria maritima L. Ca. 25 fresh green basal leaves and 1 fresh young plant with basal leaves and the uppermost part of the root. This young plant was brought to Reykjavik and potted, but did not survive.

Poa pratensis L. Some few fresh green leaves and stolons.

Sedum rosea (L.) Scop. Some few fresh green leaves and 3 fresh green stems with leaves.

Algae:

Ascophyllum nodosum (L.) Le. Jol. Some 40 thallus fragments, one of them with an epiphytic growing Monostroma sp. near the base.

Fucus inflatus L. and Fucus vesiculosus L. 20-30 thallus fragments of each species.

A species of filamentous green algae, probably belonging to Chlorophyceae, found growing on ashore drifted piece of wood.

On October 15th:

Vascular plants:

Alopecurus pratensis L. 1 panicle with few seeds. Collected for germination ability control.

Angelica archangelica L. 1 old stem with leave bases.

Anthoxanthum odoratum L. 1 panicle with few seeds. Collected for germination ability control.

Euphrasia sp. 1 inflorescence with open and empty capsules.

Festuca rubra L. 2 stems with leaves, one of them with a panicle without any seeds.

Galium boreale L. A part of a stem with two leave whorls.

Mertensia maritima (L.) S.F. Gray. A part of stem with fresh leaves.

Sedum rosea (L.) Scop. A stem with empty follicles.

Silene maritima With. A calyx with fragments of a capsule.

A root, probably of some grass species. Collected, potted in Reykjavik. Seems to be dead now.

Algae:

Chorda sp. 20-30 thallus fragments.

Ascophyllum nodosum (L.) Le.Jol. 40-50 thallus fragments.

Fucus inflatus L. Some few thallus fragments.

Fucus vesiculosus L. ca. 20 thallus fragments.

Odonthalia dentata (L.) Lyngb. 1 thallus fragment.