Diaspores which Drifted to Surtsey 1969

By
STURLA FRIDRIKSSON
The Agricultural Research Institute, Reykjavík, Iceland

As previously stated (Fridriksson 1969), most of the higher plants colonizing Surtsey have grown from seed. As an exception, a few plants have been found growing from stolons and have started to develop following their ocean dispersal. Thus, the *Elymus arenarius* plant, no. 37 in quadrat K17, has obviously developed from a stolon that has drifted to the island and been caught under a protrusion of lava.

This *Elymus* plant developed two leaves, 5 and 3 cm long, during the summer 1969.

In Table 1 are listed plant parts that had been found drifted ashore in 1969. The plant list covers mainly the observations through spring and autumn. These diaspores were mostly found after heavy storms, but no living plant parts were observed in the debris when the shore was searched during the summer months June, July, and August.

All the species listed are, also, found growing on Heimaey and all but one, i.e., *Empetrum nigrum*, are found on the outer islands of the Westman Islands group. The plant parts could thus have drifted from any of the outer islands.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TABLE 1

List of plant parts recorded drifted ashore on Surtsey 1969

	13/4	14/4	22/4	23/4	25/4	27/4	28/4	2/5	3/5	4/5	6/5	13/5	12/9
Angelica archangelica							Se			S			Se
Armeria maritima	LSI					LSR		RL	RSLI	S	ILS		
Cakile maritima		F					F			F			
Cochlearia officinalis	L				LSR	L						L	L
Elymus arenarius			Se	Se		Se	Se						
Empetrum nigrum										SL			SL
Festuca rubra								LS					
Minuartia peploides							Se						Se
Sedum roseum								R		R			L
Silene maritima													F

L = Leaves   S = Stem   R = Roots   I = Inflorescence   F = Fruit   Se = Seed