

# Nematodes from Surtsey II

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The first nematodes reported from Surtsey were found in algal cultures started during the summer 1971 by Dr. G. H. Schwabe (Sohlenius 1972). In order to investigate if any active nematode populations could be detected in the island Dr. L. E. Henriksson kindly collected 14 soil samples during his visit to Surtsey in July 1972. The samples were transported to Sweden and extracted at the Zoological Department in Stockholm by means of a modified Baermann method (Sohlenius 1973). Nematodes were found in just one of the samples taken from the soil under a piece of wood close to the shore. The wood was covered with an extensive mycelial growth. Just two juvenile nematodes belonging to the genus *Ditylenchus* were obtained from this sample.

Nematodes were also found in algal cultures started by Dr. Schwabe in 1972. Three species were found in one culture started with material from place S 414. The locality is described by Dr. Schwabe as: "Dampfweichte mit nasser Asche bedeckte Wand gegenüber dem Eingang des Nebenkraners Glocke. Die Fläche ist von lockeren Algenbeständen bedeckt und wird nur kurzfristig von direktem Sonnenlicht erreicht."

Following species were found: *Acrobeloides nanus* (de Man, 1880) Anderson, 1968, *Plectus rhizophilus* de Man, 1880 and *Monhystera filiformis* Bastian, 1865. The identity of *A. nanus* and *M. filiformis* may be somewhat uncertain.

*Acrobeloides nanus* was earlier found in an algal culture from 1971 and some features of its biology and ecology have been mentioned in an earlier report (Sohlenius 1972).

*Plectus rhizophilus* is a species which is extremely resistant to changes in temperature and water supply and may well resist desiccation (Nielsen 1967). It has been found in several

places in Europe and also in Arctis and Antarctic (Schneider 1939). It is considered cosmopolitan (Meyl 1960). As *Acrobeloides nanus* it is a bacterial feeder but it was not established in agar cultures on Nigon's medium. *P. rhizophilus* was also found in an algal culture inoculated by Dr. Schwabe in the summer 1973.

Also the species *Monhystera filiformis* is considered cosmopolitan (Meyl 1960). Its feeding habits are unknown but probably it feeds on bacteria or algae (Nielsen 1967). Whether it may survive desiccation is not known to the author.

*Ditylenchus sp.* was the only nematode obtained from the soil samples. Members of this genus are known to resist desiccation (Wallace 1963). Some *Ditylenchus* species are fungal feeders (Decker 1969) and probably the extracted species belongs to that category.

The poor result of the sample series indicates that no extensive nematode colonization had occurred in 1972.

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