

# SURTSEY RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT

## IX



THE SURTSEY RESEARCH SOCIETY · REYKJAVÍK 1982

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REYKJAVÍK, 1982



# Index

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	
by Steingrímur Hermannsson	5
2. BIOLOGY	7
2.1 Concerning the biological nitrogen fixation on Surtsey by Lars Eric Henriksson and Elisabet Henriksson	9
2.2 Green and yellow-green terrestrial algae from Surtsey (Iceland) in 1978 by Paul A. Broady	13
2.3 Marine algal colonization at Surtsey by Sigurdur Jónsson and Karl Gunnarsson	33
2.4 Vascular plants on Surtsey 1977–1980 by Sturla Fridriksson	46
2.5 A survey of the subtidal fauna of Surtsey in 1974 by Erlingur Hauksson	59
2.6 The Collembola of Surtsey, Iceland by Högni Bódvarsson	63
2.7 The status of the land-arthropod fauna on Surtsey, Iceland, in summer 1981 by Erling Ólafsson	68
2.8 Report on the sampling of the benthic fauna of Surtsey 1977 and 1980 by Adalsteinn Sigurdsson	73
3. GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS	75
3.1 The Surtsey Research Drilling Project of 1979 by Sveinn P. Jakobsson and James G. Moore	76
3.2 Rock quality designation and drilling rate correlated with lithology and degree of alteration in volcanic rocks from the 1979 Surtsey drill hole by Björn Oddsson	94
3.3 Tidal and leveling measurements on Surtsey July–August 1979 by James G. Moore	98
3.4 Thermal condition of Surtsey by Gudni Axelsson, Valgardur Stefánsson, Guðjón Guðmundsson and Benedikt Steingrímsson	102
3.5 Origin of natural remanent magnetization of tephra from the 1979 Surtsey drill hole, Iceland by Sherman Gromme	111
3.6 The geomorphology of Surtsey island in 1980 by Bengt Calles, Krister Lindé and John O. Norrman	117
3.7 Some observations on the sediments of Surtsey by Ólafur Ingólfsson	133
3.8 Dredge hauls from Vestmannaeyjagrunn, Iceland by Sveinn P. Jakobsson	142
3.9 Two seismic reflection profiles from the vicinity of Surtsey, Iceland by Kjartan Thors and Sveinn P. Jakobsson	149
3.10 Fossils from Heimaey, Iceland by Leifur A. Símonarson	152

## Introduction

Surtsey was created in an eruption which started in November 1963 20 miles off the south coast of Iceland. It immediately aroused much scientific interest which led to the Surtsey Research Society being formed shortly after the eruption. The founders were Icelandic scientists, administrators and many volunteers who in different ways supported the scientific work on Surtsey. Several foreign scientists became associate members.

The Society was quite active during the eruption and for several years after. It sponsored and coordinated the scientific work, several international scientific conferences were held and financial support was obtained both from Icelandic and foreign sources.

In order to facilitate this work Surtsey was soon after its creation declared a nature reserve to be protected for scientific purposes.

Reports on the scientific work on Surtsey have been published regularly by the Surtsey Research Society, this one being the ninth in that series. Thus the Society wishes to make results from this

interesting work available to the scientific community with as little delay as possible.

The editing committee in charge of this report consists of the following scientists:

Adalsteinn Sigurdsson, marine biologist.

Eythór Einarsson, botanist.

Sveinn P. Jakobsson, geologist.

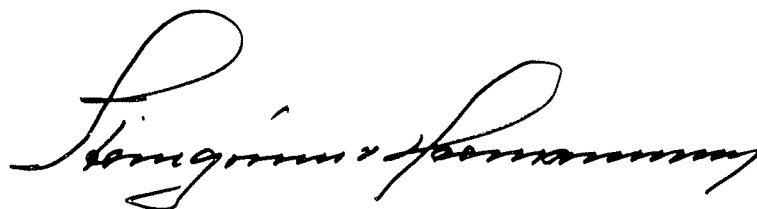
During the 20 years of Surtsey's existence much has changed. The island itself is being shaped by nature's forces, the material out of which Surtsey is made is changing and life which soon settled on the island is progressing fast. But there is still much to be learned.

Several outstanding scientists and individuals who pioneered work on Surtsey have passed away. Others continue and new ones have taken up work on Surtsey. The island will remain and the scientific work must continue.

The well documented work already done will serve as invaluable background for continued studies of the development of Surtsey.

Surtsey was and is a unique opportunity to further man's knowledge of nature.

For the Surtsey Research Society,



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*Steingrímur Hermannsson,*  
*chairman*