

Ecological Studies of an Icelandic Dune-vegetation*

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After the therophyte and hemicryptophyte splash-zone associations of the shore have been described, the *Honckenya diffusa* — *Elymus arenarius*-Ass. of the Icelandic coast and the drift-sand areas of the hinterland are dealt with. The further development of the vegetation in the drift-sand areas leads to the *Silene maritima*-*Festuca juncea*-Ass., which occurs in various sub-associations.

The desirability of checking the locally obtained results is explained, and the plant-sociological mapping of an extensive area of drift-sand at both sides of the estuary of the Ölfusá in Southwest Iceland is recommended.

The binding of the drift-sand, necessary for the protection of the neighbouring settlements, will be achieved in the safest, quickest and cheapest way through a knowledge and an observation of the syndynamic laws of the plant associations growing here. In this connexion, vegetation and locality, i.e. the drift-sand dunes, are to be considered as a living unit in the sense of van Dieren (1934), and the practical experience gained on the German and North Sea coasts is of value, to which reference is made.

Reference is also made to the importance of the knowledge of sociology, syndynamics and syn-ecology for insight into the colonization of the nearby young volcanic island of Surtsey.

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