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DIVERSITY CHANGES IN CRYPTOGAMS ALONG THE SCOTIA ARCH.

Bakalářská práce

Vedoucí práce: prof. Mgr. Ing. Jan Frouz, CSc.

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Poděkování

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ABSTRAKT

Skotské moře a jeho ostrovy jsou jednou z nejméně probádaných oblastí na světě a nejméně dotčených oblastí člověkem. Nachází se zde mnoho endemických druhů nižších rostlin, díky mladému geologickému systému a vulkanické činnosti. Studovaná oblast se nachází mezi nejjihnějším cípem Jižní Ameriky a nejsevernějším cípem Antarktického kontinentu. Vzhledem ke geologické a vulkanické diverzitě nabízí toto prostředí prostor pro tvorbu nových mladých ekosystémů a díky tomu je toto prostředí ideální studijní plochou nabízející rozsáhlé možnosti výzkumu, nejen na poli diverzity těchto mladých ekosystémů. Tato bakalářská práce představuje souhrn dostupných zdrojů o nižších rostlinách v této oblasti a jejich šíření v rámci ostrovů. Jako příloha této bakalářské práce je vytvořen list, který představuje souhrn zástupců nižších rostlin. Nakonec je diskutována schopnost jejich šíření současného i historického významu a platnost základních ekologických principů na šíření a množství výskytu jednotlivých druhů.

Klíčová slova: Scotia Arc; distribuce; biogeografie; ostrovní biogeografie; botanika; lišejníky; mechy; játrovky; hlevíky; rozsivky.

ABSTRACT

The Scottish Sea and its islands are one of the least explored areas in the world and the least affected areas by human. There are many endemic species of lower plants, thanks to the young geological system and volcanic activity. The study area is located between the northernmost tip of Antarctic continent and the northernmost tip of the South America. Due to its geological and volcanic diversity, this environment offers space for the creation of new young ecosystems, making it an ideal learning area offering extensive research opportunities not only in the diversity of these young ecosystems. This bachelor thesis presents a summary of available sources of lower plants in this area and their spread within islands. As an annex to this bachelor thesis is created a sheet, which represents a summary of representatives of lower plants. Finally, the ability of their dissemination of current and historical significance and the validity of basic ecological principles on the spread and quantity of individual species are discussed.

Key words: Scotia Arc; distribution; biogeography; island biogeography; botany; lichens; mosses; liverworts; hornworts; diatoms.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
Islands biogeography.....	2
Objectives and importance of the study	4
METHODS	4
Study sites or location	4
Geological history.....	5
Climate.....	7
Habitat types	7
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	10
Falkland Islands	10
South Georgia islands.....	10
South Sandwiches islands.....	11
South Orkneys islands	13
South Shetland islands	13
<i>Comparison of individual taxa across islands</i>	13
Moses and Liverworts	13
Lichens	15
Diatoms	16
<i>Multidimensional comparison across islands</i>	19
CONCLUSION	22
REFERENCES	24
APPENDIX	29

INTRODUCTION

Getting to know the far-off islands and their biota is not just a travel and exploration phenomenon. It is a way to get to know the system of natural creation, independent of the influences of the surrounding world. We receive information on the building blocks of ecosystem creation, ecological principles, new species and many more. Today the islands that make up the Scotia Arc were originally land bridges. It is an interesting area, such as geology, but also the development of ecosystems on today's islands. (Maldonado et al. 2015) Disputes and concerns about the regeneration of biological systems in relation to environmental changes are ongoing. However, the process of colonizing damaged areas and thus understanding the creation of ecosystems around the world will also play a major role. Isolation from other continents, harsh environment and consequently low species diversity, all give us the opportunity to explore these Antarctic regions. There are many simple ecosystems to be found in the sub-Antarctic region where there are a small number of vascular plants and many lichens and bryophytes. In the southern tip of this area, only lichens, flora of algae, macro algae and cyanobacteria dominate. (Smith 1991) This arch of many islands is a very important element in knowing the behaviour of Antarctica and for the development of Antarctic ice surfaces and, of course, for understanding biodiversity in Antarctica. (Barker and Burrell 1977) This area will also help to explain the biogeographical distinction of lower plants and diatoms. This will help us better understand the species distribution and diversity of antique diatoms. Very often, the biota of these islands is endangered by the introduction of non-native species. It is very successful in this locality to colonize these islands due to the specific flow of the ocean. Non-native species can be found on all islands in the Scotia arc. (*Fig. 1*) These archipelagos are mostly influenced only by natural phenomena. The human population is represented here by hundreds of people. That is, the people who permanently inhabit these islands. These are also only larger islands. The other islands are covered by ice and snow all year round, or they are rather small islands with cliffs. Freshwater pools occur on these islands. Magnetic anomaly analysis is used to derive the formation of these islands, and these methods derive the gradual opening of the Scotia Arc. The main opening and withdrawal occurred in an anomaly before 29 Ma, after earlier chaotic episodes. (Barker and Burrell 1977)

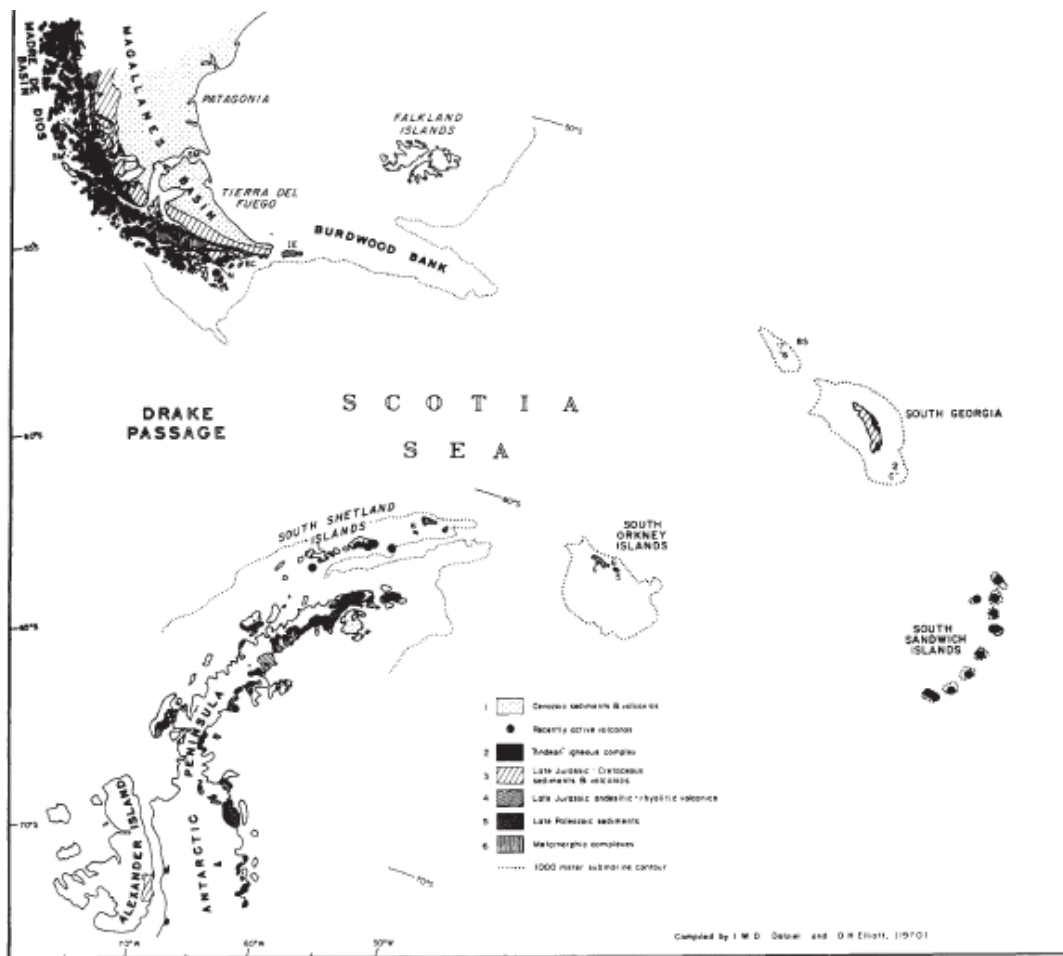


Fig. 1: Map of the reminiscent of geological units in the Scotia Arc. All islands in this arc are clearly displayed here. (Dalziel a Elliot 1971)

Islands biogeography

Biogeography is important for understanding the dispersion of species. It includes many abiotic factors such as latitude, area and degree of isolation. This makes biogeography a very diverse multidisciplinary scientific discipline that contains many scientific disciplines and answers their questions. (Cox et al. 2016)

The islands that make up the Scotia Arc are distant from each other, but in the past, they formed a continental bridge linking South America and Antarctica. Today they are divided with several groups. Falkland Islands, South Sandwich Islands, South Orkney Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Shetland Islands. (Barker 2001) These are the main groups and we will stay

with them for the sake of clarity. Among these groups there are many islets and rocks that will not be considered in this work. Even though these islands were not so isolated, different environments developed on them. This is due to the constant volcanic activity, for example on South Sandwiches islands. (Dalziel et al. 2013) This activity creates higher surface temperatures of the islands and enriches the number of lower plant species on these islands. Thanks to these different conditions, each island is an original environment for organisms living on the surface of the island. Besides volcanic islands, there are also islands with glacial cover only. Where the only environment suitable for lower plants is on the coast washed by sea water or lagoons on melting glacial areas. The water currents lining these islands are very cold, even on a deep basis. So, unless there are favourable temperatures due to volcanic activity that keeps biota running, the only way to develop flora on these islands is either by bird colonies or by wind. (Cox et al. 2016) The environment on these islands is not endangered by direct human activity, except for brave expeditions. They are thus left to their fate and so are a valuable study area for us.

Plants are incapable of locomotion, they can only be dispersed by anemochores, flotation, in this case in the sea. Or, as is often the case here, species of some birds that carry these plants caught on feathers, on their feet, or pass through the digestive system of these birds. (MacArthur and Wilson 2001) (Whittaker et al. 2007) Surveys of historical records of this area, based on various paleontological studies and results of peat kernels. It has never been a radical component in the composition of flora in this area for 10,000 years. Despite several great historical glaciations of money, there is significant evidence of the extinction of flora in the area. The evolution of the local terrestrial flora, located in the sub-Antarctic zone, easily relies on the postglacial migration of species and their multiplication along with the surviving flower. Dispersal on these islands is possible only with the correct patterns of wind, storm and rainfall, but on sea currents and strong bird colonies. (Smith 1991)

Another aspect of flora development at these sites is soil formation. The land of polite islands is made up of peat deposits and attractive sawmills that get here by massive wind currents. This forms the basis for the spreading of the soil and the colonization by flourish to these hostile places. (Smith 1991)

Objectives and importance of the study

All possible studies in this area deal mainly with geology and morphology of the terrain. Studies on volcanic activity are also known in this area. (Barker P. F. et al. 1972) Further studies focus on specific islands and their biota. There is no comprehensive work to describe a biota in the entire Scotia Arc area. There have been many expeditions in this area, focusing on the development of flora, due to volcanic activity (Convey et al. 2000), or expeditions on flora classifications and their ecological or biogeographical habitats. The vegetation here is mostly formed by mosses, lichens, liverworts and algae. And until recently, the associations and ecological relationships of these communities have been compared to the world's polar and alpine vegetation. Few studies have addressed the relationship between this island flora and the marine ecosystem, which is not negligible here. (Longton 1979) These islands can be considered a unique natural and often unexplored laboratory, without directly affecting human civilization. The main goal of this bachelor thesis is to summarize the known records and important studies of non-marine nonvascular flora. This summary is currently missing. It can therefore help future scientists, ecologists, climatologists, biogeographers, etc ... It is possible to understand the biogeographic processes of this area from this work.

METHODS

Study sites or location

Scotia arc is part of a geological formation called Drake Passage, which has a total width of 850 km. And it is located between South America and continental Antarctica. This geological formation connects the Pacific Ocean with the southwest Atlantic Ocean. It thus affects the flow between these oceans and thus forms a large migration area. These islands evolved during the division of continents as continental fragments. (Fig. 2) (Bohoyo 2016)

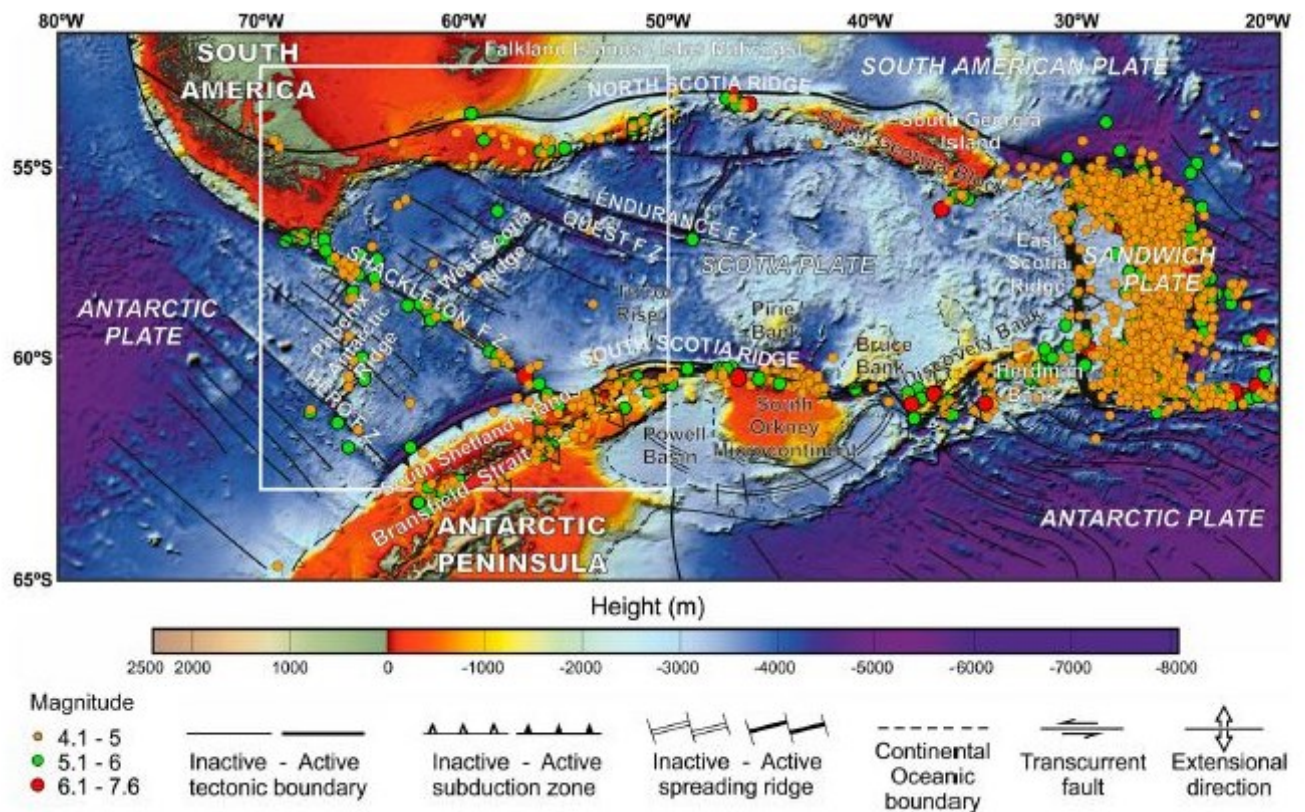


Fig. 2: Geological map of Scotia arc, showing the division of the earth's crust and volcanic activity. (Bohoyo et al. 2019)

Geological history

The formation of this arc, Scotia Arc, began 32 million years ago (Ma), this phase was the last phase of the division of the Gondwana formation. This, originally Mesozoic continental connection, was gradually disrupted by the growth of the sea crust between the two main continental units. This created continental fragments of South America and Antarctica (Barker 2001)

Scotia Arc is a distinctive physio geographic feature that encloses the Scottish Sea. This arch connects the southernmost Andean Cordillera in South America and Antarctica. There is an active volcanic arch in Scotia Arch, which forms the Sandwich Islands. This arch, along with other volcanic islands, plays an important role in the distribution of plants and animals. (Fig. 3) (Dalziel et al. 2013) The Scotia Arc is named after the Scotia yacht, the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition (1902-1904), led by Dr. W.S. Brucem. (Rudmose Brown 1906)

The Scotia Arc was formed during the late Mesozoic, on the edge of the Gondwana supercontinent, between the two pre-Cambrian cratons, the Kalahari, African Tethys and East Antarctica. It was originally fragmented at the beginning of Gondwana before the seafloor spread in the southwestern Indian Ocean. (Dalziel et al. 2013) Today's Scotia Arc, as we know it, began to form in the middle of the Cretaceous acceleration of the westward movement of South America. This was at a time when the Fuegian Cordillera began to rise as the eastern end of the Burdwood Bank. In addition, in the Fuegian Cordillera basin, it included not only compressing but also slipping. (Curtis et al. 2010) During the Oligocene period (~90-30 Mya), this arc region changed slightly. The peripheral Cordilleras of the southernmost Andes and the Antarctic Peninsula, which maintained the form of the summit, shaped the seafloor, spreading South America and Africa and the east of Antarctica. (Barker P. F. et al. 1972)

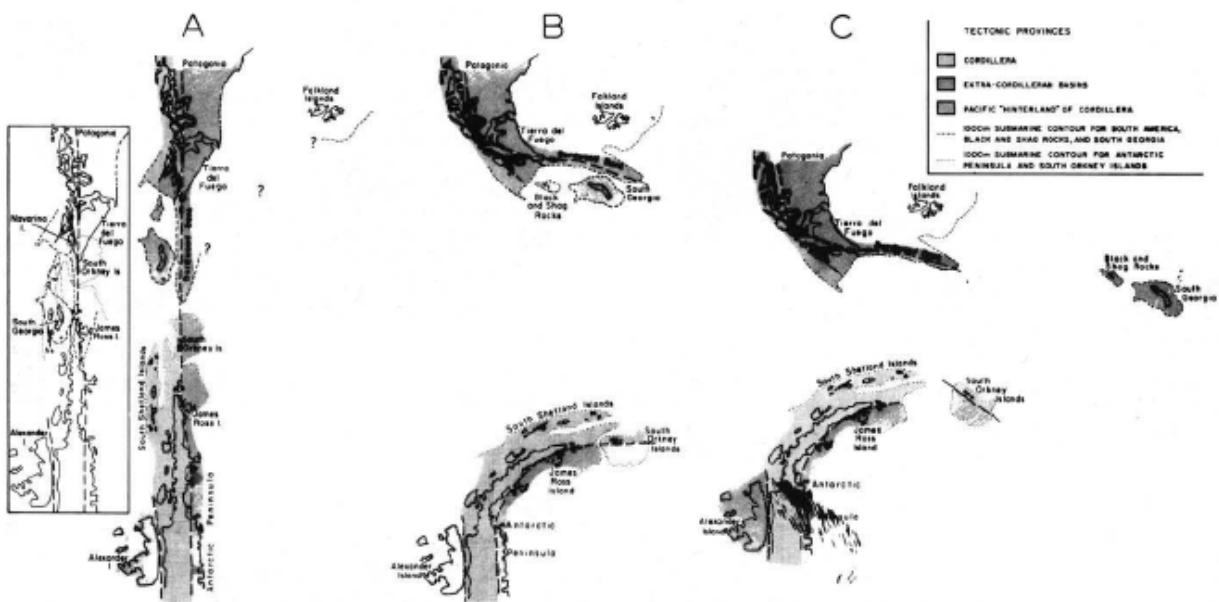


Fig. 3: The geological development of the Scotia arc in the last Mesozoic period is shown here. The division of the continent caused the distribution of continental fragments, and these created islands in the Scotia arc. (Dalziel and Elliot 1971)

And in this period the movement between Africa and East Antarctica also ceased. (Hervé et al. 2007) Scotia Arc included three major tectonic plates: Antarctica, South America and Phoenix. (Dalziel et al. 2013) The Late Palaeocene gained a new tectonic regime, was created south of the Scottish Sea and the Ridge of the South Scotia Arc. This created cracks, which were

an indication of the separation of Antarctica after the expansion of the Oligocene seabed formed west of the Scottish Arc. (Barker a Burrell 1977)

Climate

Scotia Arc, an arc created in the Oligocene period, located between South America and Antarctica, has finally separated Antarctica from other continents. This created the Antarctic circular proud. This proud affects the entire global climate system. It is now possible to carry out water masses between the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. The found isotope bent record supports his view that this arc and its search result in a sudden deterioration of the Eocene-Oligocene climate and caused by the growth of large ice sheets on the Antarctic continent. (Lodolo a Tassone 2010)

Major tectonic movements led to opening or steel bran like Scotia Arc or Drake Passage. To lead to a change in ocean flow and immobilization of the hat paleoclimate. These oceanic gates act as barriers to energy transport. (Lodolo a Tassone 2010) This division of continents, which was one of the greatest changes in the southern hemisphere, gave rise to circumpolar pride, annular and permanent, equally superficial as well as deep. To cause the development of ice surfaces in Antarctica. (Kennett 1977)

The Scottish Sea that washes off the island in the Scotia Arc is a water mass powered by the wind. This meat is mixed, cold and salty groundwater. (Foldvik a Gammelsrød 1988) The Antarctic circulation stream is composed of many fronts that have a great influence in this area. The wrecks that make up the Antarctic circulation stream mark the boundaries between warmer, saline, subtropical waters, and cooler subpolar waters. On the south side of Scotia Acr lies the Polar Front, which forms a very cold transition with relatively fresh Antarctic surface water. Further to the south there is another breakthrough of the border front where a very dense abyss water reaches a direction of a few hundred meters below the surface. (Lodolo a Tassone 2010)

Habitat types

The flora of the sub-Antarctic islands is very specific. It is not at all like the flora of the northernmost belts or the mainland islands. In general, we would describe this vegetation as

tundra. The southern hemisphere can be divided into three sub-Antarctic biomes. To the continental, maritime and sub-Antarctic zone. The sub-Antarctic zone is divided into three sub-areas, the Atlantic Province, the South Pacific and the South Indian. On these islands, flowering plants also have wide ecological amplitudes. There are large communities of phanerogams. Mosses are one of the main components of today's vegetation, especially in peatlands. (Van der Putten et al. 2012)

The islands in these southern seas are known for the diversity and abundance of many species, not just endemic ones. They have mostly well-developed terrestrial ecosystems, mainly islands belonging to the larger ones. The diversity ranges from Antarctic poor areas covered with snow and ice to species-rich and vegetative complex ecosystems in the north. This illustrates the range of vascular plant diversity from zero to 188 plant species. Ecdemites occur not only as an exceptionality of one island, but also a group of islands. Over the last decades, the ecosystems on these islands have been reorganized and labelled many times. For example, marine Antarctica, sub-Antarctica. (Bergstrom a Chown 1999) These ecosystems are very similar; their basic attribute is low annual temperatures and of course the structure of vegetation corresponds. Which defines the occurrence or absence of higher forms of plants. The absence of higher plants is a far more accurate measure than their common feature, and that is low temperature. (Smith 1984) So the southern islands are basically divided into mainland origins whose biota comes from neighbouring continents, such as the Falkland Islands and then into the young volcanic islands, where the history of the ecosystem remains a bit mysterious. For example, South Sandwiches islands. (Bergstrom a Chown 1999) There are also many islands that have the form of ocean plateaus. The biota of these islands is very similar to the biota on the African continent, ie in terms of fauna. A problem in the development of ecosystems on these southern islands was past glaciations. Some islands in these areas have affected two or possibly three ice phases during the neogene. (Hall 1990) As a general rule, the southern islands were more often glaciated than those located more north. The individual heights of the individual islands also play a big role in this. These are some of the most important factors that played a role in the formation of biota on these islands. And it is in this spirit that the development is set for the future. (Bergstrom a Chown 1999)

Glaciation, as I wrote, had a great impact on the development of species richness. Of course, according to research, vascular species were an integral part of the interglacial period,

with a few exceptions on larger islands where these parts are missing in development. Even though temperatures are so low, the southern islands are very interesting for island biogeography. On these islands is the richest variation of the original species of vascular plants. (Bergstrom a Chown 1999) Not only temperature but also the size of the island plays a role in the choice of people. More exploratory expeditions went to the Great Islands in the past, and this is related to the transfer of invasive species to these original ecosystems. Of course, islands that are warmer, due to volcanic activity, for example, are better able to conserve invasive biota. The climate is changing very quickly in these areas, but it is not the greatest threat to these ecosystems. (Chown et al. 1998) (Chapuis et al. 1994)

A special environment is the South Sandwiches islands, namely active volcanic activity. This activity played a significant role in shaping the local ecosystem. It should be added that the degree of diversity is affected by the erosion arising from the volcanic activity. Therefore, the species richness of this ecosystem has changed with all floristic records. Especially mosses that react to changing temperature and calorific value of individual sites. Not only erosion, but also explosions of individual craters, changes not only the character of the landscape, but also the location of the heated areas. These are also decisive factors as to whether the moss species occupy these habitats (Convey et al. 2000)

The marine biogeographical region, which covers most of the islands from the Scotia arc, brings more moisture and rainfall from the Atlantic Ocean. There are many air masses that bring regular rainfall. These masses also bring many spores and seeds away from South America. Many sea currents are also created in this area, alternating with the degree of recess. Thus, they contribute to a slightly warmer climate than the Antarctic continent. This is evidenced by the increase in flora. We can find here not only lichens, but also many species of mosses and higher plants. (Øvstedal & Smith 2001)

The Continental Antarctic Zone is a biogeographical region affecting the southern part of the Scotia arc. The climate in this area is very cold and dry. It is represented almost exclusively by lichen stands. The circulating sea water around the Antarctic continent significantly affects the climate on the southern islands. This causes the islands to be covered with ice. Except for bays and seaside beaches. (Øvstedal & Smith 2001)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Non vascular flora on individual island

In order to maintain clarity in the individual categories of the lower plants found in the Scotia Arc, the upcoming chapters are divided by island groupings. This will keep the records clear and will not list many island names. In this chapter, therefore, are recorded floristic records of island clusters, Falkland Islands, South Sandwiches islands, South Georgia islands, South Shetland islands and South Orkneys islands. That is, from the north Scotia arc to the southern edge of these islands.

Falkland Islands

The archipelago is located in the South Atlantic Ocean. The Falkland Islands are made up of up to 400 islands, with West and East Falkland having by far the largest mainland. Geologically, quartz and sandstone predominate and the vegetation of the main islands is represented by acid heaths with dominant grass. The nature of the islands is thoroughly described. This region is known for its rich bird biodiversity. (Flower 2005)

Bryophytes are a very large group in the Falkland Islands, although their coverage is not even. Many of the historical records have lost seriousness due to many and many taxonomic changes. The first big summary was made in the Falkland Islands, Matteri in 1986, which recorded 141 species. But many of them have never been properly taxonomically recognized. Because not all the small islands belonging to the Falkland Islands complex have been explored, the record of bryophytes will certainly increase in the future. (Ochyra et al. 2015)

South Georgia islands

The island is mostly covered with snow and ice. A few months a year, the island is kinder to its permanent residents. But the island serves primarily as a scientific ground. than as a place to live. Nature is limited to tundra communities, which are washed by sea water in sharp bays. The lichens predominate here. (Dalziel and Elliot 1971)

South Sandwiches islands

The South Sandwich Islands are small and of particularly volcanic origin. Many areas are still active. The abundance and variety of flora is by diversifying the temperature way to study the currents of the surrounding islands and active volcanic activity. Available data are available from 1964 to 1997 complete records of flora on these islands are now available. These data indicate that there are 38 species of mosses, 11 liverworts, 41 lichens and 16 diatoms on these islands; several taxa are identified only by the genus. Diatoms that occur here are endangered after visiting moss stands. Many elements of the local flora are of South American origin. Only a score of 11 % is of endemic origin on these islands. If you focus only on the lichen group, 52 % of the species are endemic. (Convey et al. 2000) The flora community can be divided into two types. Geothermally heated and unheated soil community. Unheated soil communities had similar compositions to the continental Antarctic flora. (Longton 1966) Due to geothermal activity on these islands, this ecosystem is very unusual compared to others. There are not many others with which we can compare it. These communities are still little studied. If we consider other sites outside this Antarctic area, these areas are populated by various vascular plants, such as ferns. These then support the growth of other bryophytes by their root systems. This makes them more tolerant of warmer soils. (Convey et al. 2000) Of the lichens recorded here, 52 % are found only in Antarctica, 11 % of mosses also occur. South American species are represented here by 32 %. As for liverworts, they mostly use only heated soil, 73 % of them are of South American origin. (Convey et al. 2000) Several of the islands are barren and inhospitable for all types of flora. These are continents rather than being referred to as islands, such as Bristol, Freezland and Wilson Rocks. (*Fig. 4*) The high level of endemic lichen species on the south side of the islands suggests that this flora originates from the ancient Antarctic flora. Unfortunately, this archipelago is very young, and we are not sure of this hypothesis. There is also a rule that mosses are kept in low-lying areas along the coast. Water supplies can be better predicted. (Convey et al. 2000) The occurrence of many bryophytes and their migration from South America to the Antarctic region is highly dependent on local geothermal activity. It is a very important factor in disputing disputes on these and other islands. (Smith 1991)

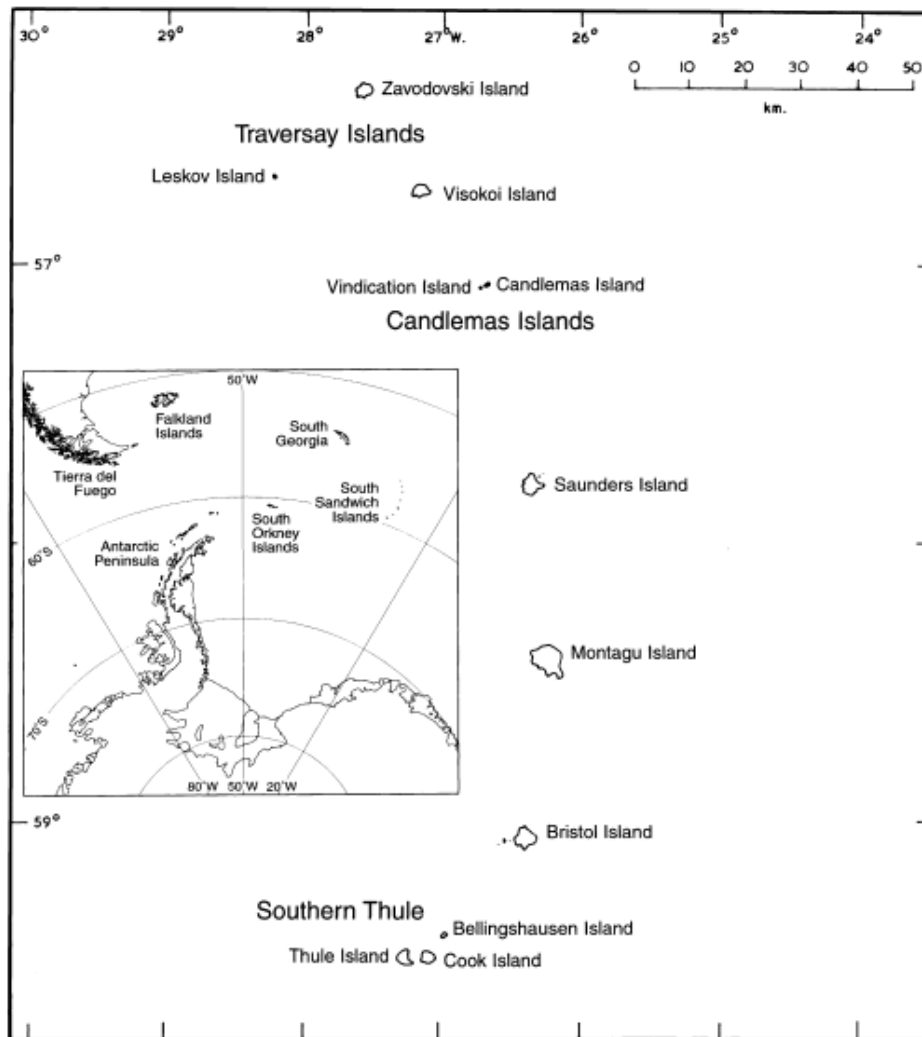


Fig. 4: Map showing the 11 main islands of the South Sandwich Islands. (Convey et al. 2000)

Most of the other diatom taxa found here have very small boxes. Therefore, most scientists believe that they were also introduced here by birds. Many of these species have a very high saltwater tolerance. Such as *Luticola mutica* and *Luticola muticopsis*. Which actually makes them suitable candidates for such transmission. Transitional water taxa include *Craspedostauros cf. indubitabilis* (Bahls et al. 2013) and *Chamaepinnularia cf. krookiformis* (Krammer, 1992) Other species are, for example, *Nitzschia pusilla*, which is also found here in brackish waters rich in electrolytes and has been found in parallel with *Pinularia krooki* and *Achnanthes nickei*. These two species have been found on foot sites of the marine Antarctic site. (Van de Vijver & Beyens, 1997 b).

South Orkneys islands

These islands are characterized by a cold oceanic climate, with an average annual temperature of - 3.5 ° C and an annual rainfall of 400 mm. The ice sheet lies over a continuous permafrost. Which is active to a depth of 40 cm to 2 m. Dominant are two main vegetation formations: the Antarctic herbal tundra and the more widespread Antarctic nonvascular cryptogamic tundra. Most of the ice-free area on the island is covered with cryptogams vegetation. (Cannone et al. 2016)

South Shetland islands

The island has a maritime Antarctic climate heavily influenced by westerly winds, resulting in higher rainfall and a milder climate than in mainland Antarctica. Livingston's geology consists of Jurassic-Cretaceous shales, sandstones, and canal rocks. It is usually snow-free, with barren and rocky, sparse vegetation, consisting mainly of lichens and mosses. (Sterken et al. 2015)

Comparison of individual taxa across islands

Moses and Liverworts

Falkland Islands - Bryologically, the Falkland Islands are quite well, but unevenly, studied. Engel (1990) provided an excellent taxonomic and phytogeographic description of the liver flora of this area. He found 131 species of liverworts and hornbills in the archipelago, which represent an almost exclusively Australian element. The moss flora of the Falkland Islands was first summarized by Matteri (1986) who recorded 141 species and 20 varieties from the archipelago. Unlike liver plants, moss flora is phytogeographically more diverse, with more than 25% - the total number of species forming bipolar and cosmopolitan elements. (Ochyra & Broughton 2004) for example, *Hygroamblystegium fuegianum*, *H. fuegianum* var. *skottsbergii* and *H. sordidoviride* are identical to the protean *Orthotheciella varia*, whilst *Drepanocladus fuegianus* var. *stenophyllus* is synonymous with *Warnstorfia fluitans* (Ochyra & Matteri, 2001).

The South Orkneys are geothermally active islands with many bryophytes associated with them. Of the 35 species of mosses and nine species of liverworts known here, only four species of mosses were not associated with geothermal activity. This means that 50% of mosses and eight species of liverworts were found only on active heated ground. Some species that do not need actively heated soil occur on other islands of maritime Antarctica. Mainly in the southern habitats of the Sandwich Islands. Maximum temperatures here mean 40 - 47 ° C in the upper 0.5 cm of vegetation surface, such temperatures are tolerated only by *Campylopus introflexus*. Maximum surface temperatures below this moss reached up to 75 ° C. Other bryophytes that regularly occur in the zonal vegetation included mosses *Dicranella hookeri*, *Sanionia georgicouncinata*, *Pohlia nutans* and *Notoligotrichum trichodon*, and liverworts *Cryptochila grandiflora* and *Marchantia berteroana*. Surface temperatures of 25 - 35 ° C and subsurface in these species, temperatures of 50 - 60 ° C were recorded. These exceptional plant communities illustrate their spread by transporting viable propagules to Antarctica. The longer-term existence of geothermal habitats on islands along the Scottish Arc can be individually fleeting and could provide refuge during periods of glacial expansion, facilitated by the subsequent recolonization of Antarctic terrestrial habitats. (Convey and Smith 2006) Terrestrial habitats isolated on a scale of meters to thousands of kilometres represent less than 0.5% of Antarctica's area. Cryptogams dominate their marine Antarctica, while phanerogams are limited to two species. The ecology, phytosociology, and biodiversity of these communities have been extensively studied. (Øvstedal and Smith 2001) Some species that are predominantly associated with soil heating, where they form present and fresh vegetation (eg *Campylopus introflexus*, *Dicranella hookeri*, *Cryptochila grandiflora*, *Marchantia berteroana*), cannot survive the reduction or loss of warming. These species are either present only in the most active areas of the island or in very poor condition on an unheated surface. Thus, they can tolerate temperatures that usually occur in unheated places in summer, as the point temperature of the minimum obtained from most are comparable to the minimums recorded in unheated places. However, lower temperatures during longer seasons (eg air and ground) temperatures reported in March 1964 were 3 - 5 ° C colder) and short-term cold periods in summer are more likely to determine the survival of these species. (Convey and Smith 2006) Studies in these environments are repeated, and the results from all studies agree. Thus, they support all the main idea that life on these islands is dependent on geothermal activity described as early as 1979 in a study (Longton 1979).

South Shetland Islands are represented by fifty species of bryophytes. On these islands, mosses can only be attached in places without permanent glaciation, which is not easy on these islands. The places of successful studies for the study of mosses are bays washed by sea water with an area of about 3 km². Due to its small size, this area has a remarkably large biodiversity. On these islands, 21% of lichens are endemic, only 10% of bryophyte species have exclusively Antarctic distribution. (Sancho 1999) *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum* occurs on these islands. It is a rare component of Antarctic bryoflora. This species is very rare in continental Antarctica, where it occurs only in Princess Elizabeth Land and Queen Mary Land. It is also widely distributed but scattered in maritime Antarctica. Here on the coast of Loubet on the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula, it is very rare, but on the island of Alexander, where it extends south to latitude 71 ° 50 ' south latitude, and on the east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula in James. Ross Island group, it is relatively common. In addition, *B. recurvirostrum* is occasionally rare in the peri-Antarctic archipelago of South Orkney and in sub-Antarctic South Georgia. *B. recurvirostrum* is very rare in the southern Shetland Islands and has so far only been recorded from Livingston Island and King George Island. Here the species is recorded from the third island of this group; the heavily icy island of Nelson, where it was found in only one location. (Ellis et al. 2013)

Lichens

Falkland Islands - Lichens are important to the terrestrial ecosystem of the local environment. The famous botanist Joseph Dalton Hooker, the message "Nowhere in the world are lichens more noticeable than in the Falklands". Lichens are more "conspicuous" in the Falklands than anywhere else, and in part have poor tree cover. (Calvelo a Fryday 2006) The overview of local lichens includes a total of 408 taxa: 402 species and six other infrared taxa (four subspecies, one variety and one form) in 161 genera. They include 15 species of lichen mushrooms in 12 different genera. 165 species were first reported from the Falkland Islands. (Fryday et al. 2019)

South Shetland islands are for the genera of lichens such as *Caloplaca*, *Cladonia* and *Umbilicaria*, these islands are of interest for the most suitable place in Antarctica. (Sancho 1999).

Diatoms

Falkland Islands - Research on diatoms begins in the Falkland Islands in 1913, published by Carlson along with flora on the Islas of Malvinas and Antarctica. Since 1990, floristic studies have alternated almost every six years. Flower described the most extensive diatom flora to date in 2005. He described 11 new taxa and reported 233 existing ones. These species occurred only in 28 localities. This proves the complexity of habitats, water chemistry, climatic conditions and isolation. (Jüttner et al. 2018) Most of the localities examined here have acidic water and of the 28 localities examined, five were freshwater localities. The permanent waters (lakes or ponds) located in the lowland regions were < 2.5 m deep and simple. Only two localities of the lake were at an altitude of over 200 m and were relatively deep (> 10 m). (Flower 2005)

Across the Falkland region, more than 180 taxa are identified at 28 localities, of which a significant minority (approximately 40%) are restricted or restricted to sub-Antarctic regions. (Fig. 5) Credited regionally endemic species *Cymbella tsonka*, *Distrionella germanii*, *D. germanii*, *F. acostata*, *Encyonema minutiformae*, *Frustulia neofrenquellii*, *Pinnularia biceps* var. *pusilla*, *Psammothidium incognitum*, *P. oblongellum*, *P. abundans* and variety,

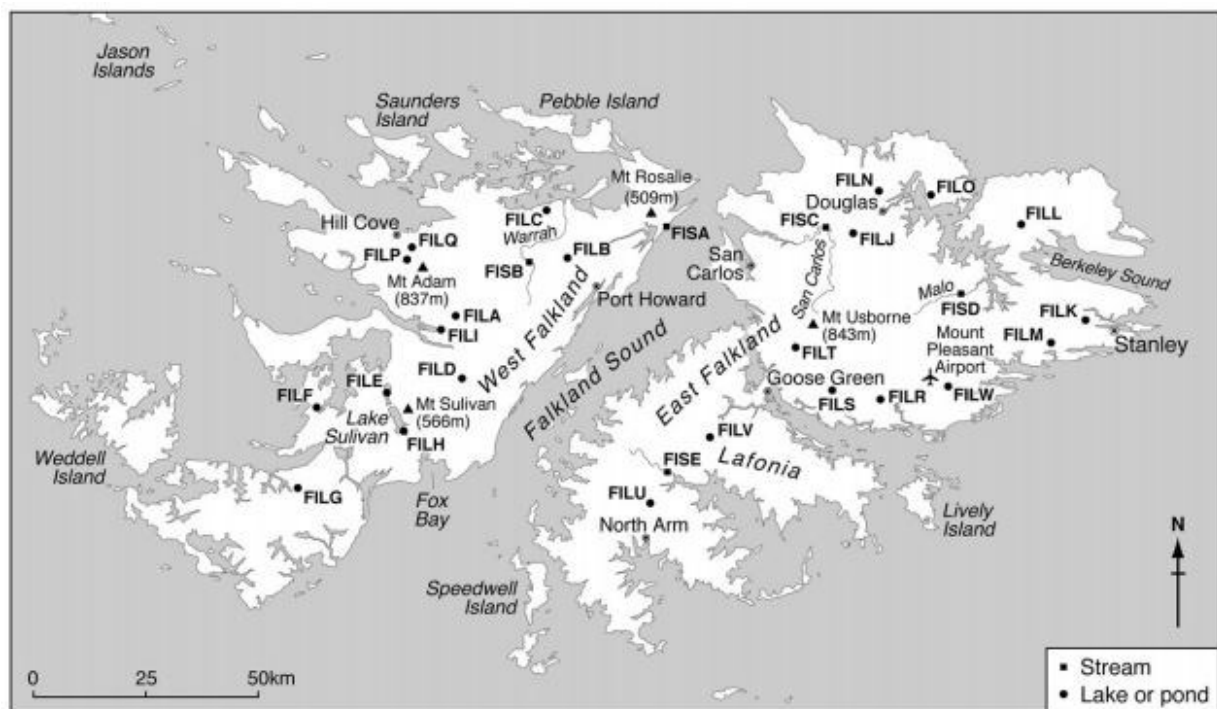


Fig. 5: Map of the Falkland Islands with marked sampling points. From the main sampling in 2001. Sampling took place at a total of 28 localities. (Flower 2012)

P. confusum. Search for the acidity of able-bodied waters on plains covered with heather, in these ponds' significant dominants taxa *Pinnularia* and *Eunotia exigua* or taxa *Aulacoseira* and *E. incisa*. *Cavinula pseudoscutiformis* and *Psammothidium* tend to be characteristic sites with pH about values 5 and 6. In water sources with a risk of pH above 6, there was a tendency for less biodiversity than in water source areas. Species, taxa *Staurosira* and *Staurosirella*, with *S. pinnata* and *S. elliptica* often appeared here. (Flower et al. 2012)

South Georgia islands – Records of diatoms on these islands are mostly purely historical records. Diatoms are used here to determine the sales of aquatic sea masses around the island. (Rembauville et al. 2016) Due to the glaciation of the island, the diatom habitats overlap considerably. As for freshwater diatoms, we find here *Achnantheidium minutissimum*, *Amphora veneta*, *Craticula* sp. *Cymbella cistula*, *Discostella stelligera*, *Diploneis* sp. *Discostella stelligera*, *Fragilaria capucina*, *Fragilaria germainii*, *Fragilaria tenera*, with *D. stelligera* and small *Fragilariaceae*, such as *Staurosirella* sp., *Psuedostaurosira* spp. The rest of diatom species include marine benthic and brackish taxa, including *Cocconeis* spp. A *Navicula* spp. (Berg et al. 2019) During one of the last revisions of the diatom flora, these species of *Craticula australis*, sp. nov., *C. Obaesa*, Sp. nov and *C. petradeblockiana*, sp. nov. (Van De Vijver et al. 2015) Four new species of diatoms belonging to the genera *Achnantheidium*, *Placoneis*, *Geissleria* and *Stauroneis* were observed during a survey of diatom flora at sea on several islands in maritime Antarctica and South Georgia. Based on light and scanning electron microscopic observations, when revised in 2009, the following species are described as new: *Achnantheidium lailae* Van de Vijver sp. nov., *Placoneis australis* Van de Vijver et Zidarova sp. nov., *Geissleria gabrielae* Van de Vijver and Zidarova sp. nov. and *Stauroneis nikolayi* Zidarova sp. Nov. (Zidarova et al. 2009)

South Sandwiches islands - As for what is not on this island, many species, such as multiple species on the islands of closer Antarctic continents. The reason is probably quite a large degree of isolation, unlike other island groupings. There are these islands that are very small, so it is possible that this is another factor for this biodiversity, although the size of the islands themselves, but also the size of this island grouping. Another limiting factor is the low silicon content, which is important for sharing diatoms. The 16 identified taxa are mixed sea, brackish

and freshwater diatoms. (Convey et al. 2000) At the same time, sea diatoms occur here by direct infection from bird colonies migrating in the area. They are *Achnanthes groenlandica*, *Thalassiosira gracilis*, *F. cylindrus* and *Fragilariopsis curta*. (Smith 1991)

South Orkneys islands and South Shetland islands - A total of 102 diatom taxa, belonging to at least 34 different genera, have been observed in recent and (sub) fossil sediments from lakes on these islands. As a result of recent major revisions of the Antarctic maritime area, all found can be identified by species. Despite great efforts and countless revisions of subantarctic diatoms, there are a large number of variations in individual species in these astrocs. The remaining taxa and species complexes are in urgent need of revision. This is especially true for all species of *Nitzschia*. So far, several species may not have been identified and are described as new species (eg *Navicula* sp. 1, B. Van de Vijver, unpubl. Res.). There are also other taxa (eg *Pinnularia borealis* s.l., *Fragilaria capucina* s.l., U *Nitzschia paleacea*, *Encyonema minutum*) are found on these islands of considerable degrees of variation, which requires further study. Extensive diatom studies have revealed a variety of semicryptic data in many known diatom species (eg Behnke et al. 2004, Beszteri et al. 2007; for a review, see Mann (1999)). Studies have shown that very detailed analyzes are necessary at this site. Diatom morphometry indicated possible other species. It will therefore be necessary to perform a very detailed SEM analysis here. It is very likely that completely new species will appear here and are newly described here. (Sterken et al. 2015) An overview of species on these islands is given in detail in the appendix of this work.

Multidimensional comparison across islands

Due to the amount of data and many factors, it was appropriate to use multidimensional data analysis, which will help us better understand the relationships between the environment itself and individual species. In this analysis, data that would help to confirm the transfer of individual species from island to island, for example by bird colonies, were omitted. Data for these analyses are missing here. It was therefore appropriate to focus on known biotic and abiotic factors, measured and reported in many analyses across research in this area. Only two-dimensional data projection cannot be used for this analysis of the environment. When searching for individual species and their representation, it was obvious that temperature in this locality will not be a factor that would affect the number of species. It was necessary to provide an overview of other abiotic factors. For comparison with numerous biotic and abiotic factors, DCA analysis was chosen due to length of gradient which was 5.58 and thus more suitable for unimodal rather than linear analysis. It thus helped to better understand the relationships between vascular plant data and temperature, geographical location and age of individual islands. As was obvious at first glance, the vascular plants on the Scotia arc are mainly influenced by the geographical location and age, or the complexity of the individual islands. The south north position play also role but is less important (*Fig. 7*). The same pattern shows analysis of species richness on individual island which seems to be more dependent on longitude (corresponding with age of island) than latitude. (*Fig. 6*) The temperature is also affected by volcanic activity on many islands. Thanks to the gradual splitting of individual continental fragments, islands were formed at different times. This helped to stabilize the species representation and its further development. It is evident that islands of a larger character with a longer period of formation gave room for the development of a more complex environment than on small continental fragments, which are covered only with snow and no soil component. There is also no room for lagoons and gradual transitions between land and water. Many types of diatoms depend on the presence of the mosses in which we find them. Especially the species occurring on these small island fragments. As can be seen from the results of the analysis, the number of species affects the age of the island the most. The second factor influencing these numbers is the location of the individual islands. There is a noticeable decrease in more complex species of mosses, which are more towards lichens and diatom flora towards the South Pole.

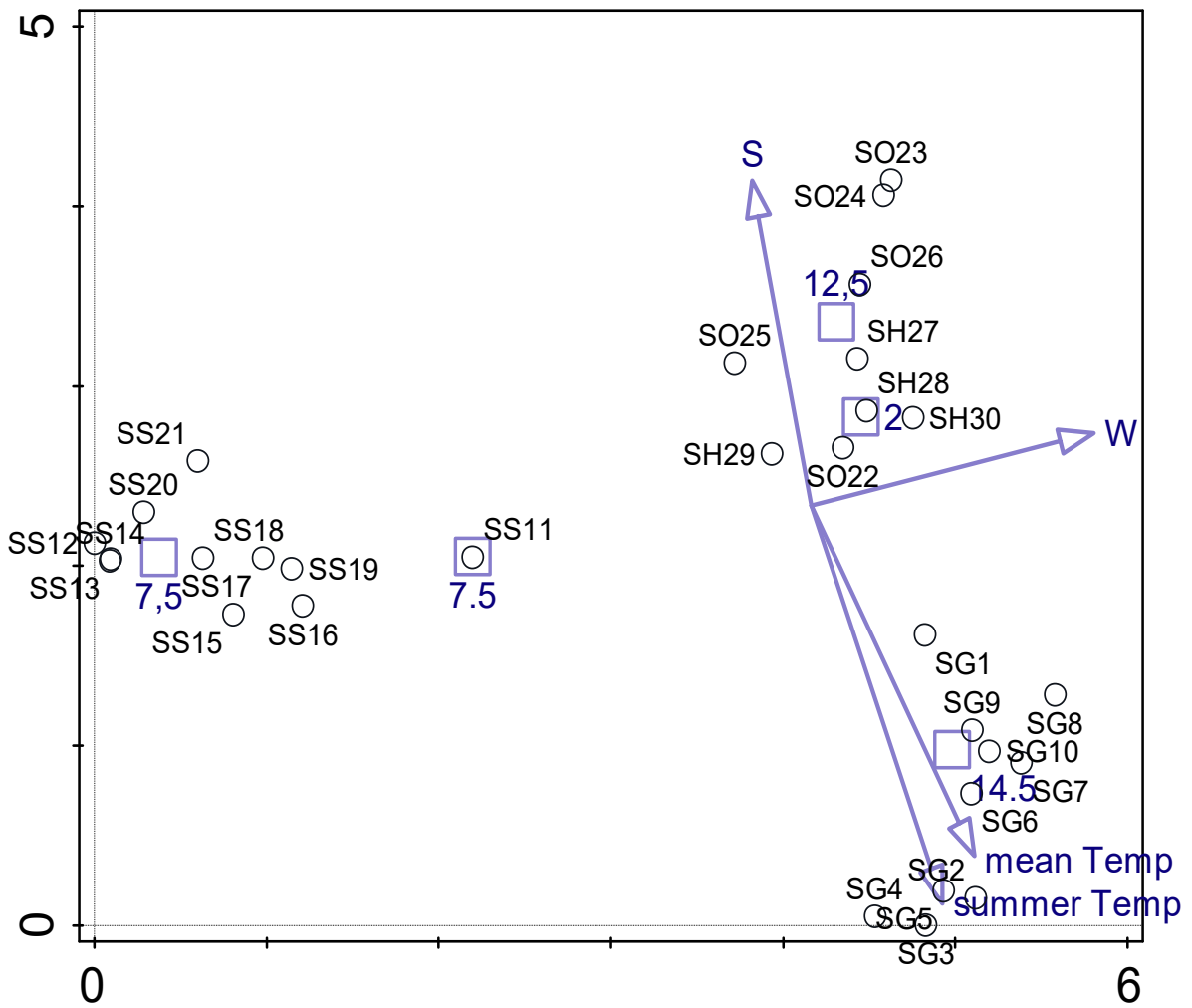


Fig. 6: DCA ordination diagram based on the presence and absence of individual species of non-vascular plants on subantarctic islands, the first axis explains 12.1 and the second 5.8% variability of data.

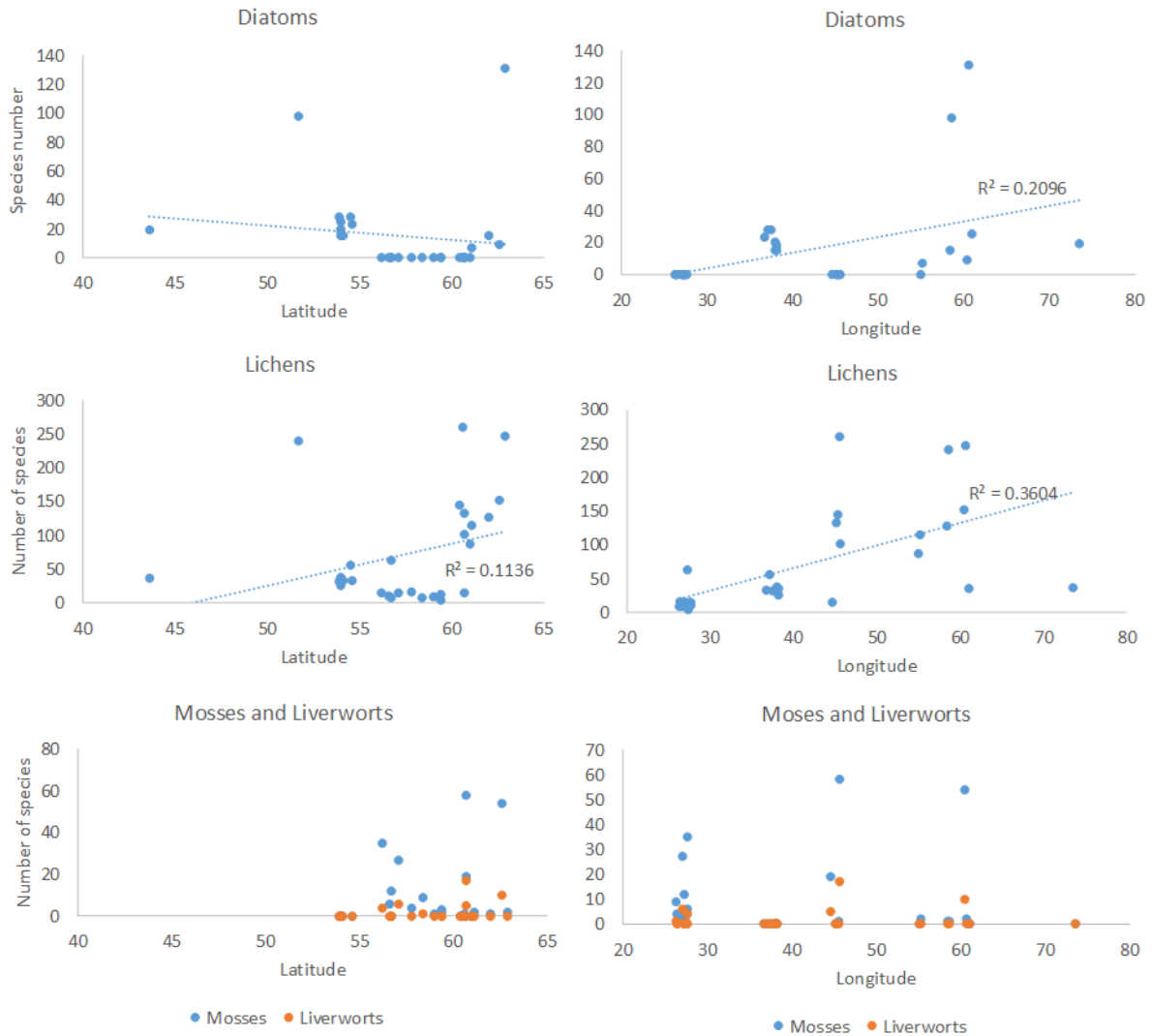


Fig. 7: Species number of dominant groups of non-vascular plants in individual island in relation to latitude and longitude of the island, if significant linear regression is plotted.

Data on non-vascular plants can be found in the appendix of this work. The appendix contains a total of 797 known species records. Of which 116 species of mosses, 24 species of liverworts, 500 species of lichens and 157 species of diatoms. (Fig. 8) Of the species representation of mosses, 46 are cosmopolitan and 26 are endemic. From the known records of liverworts, 12 species are cosmopolitan and 6 species are endemic. As for the lichen flora, there are 128 cosmopolitan species and 233 endemic species. Diatomaceous earth is represented by 46 cosmopolitan species and 14 as yet undetermined taxa.

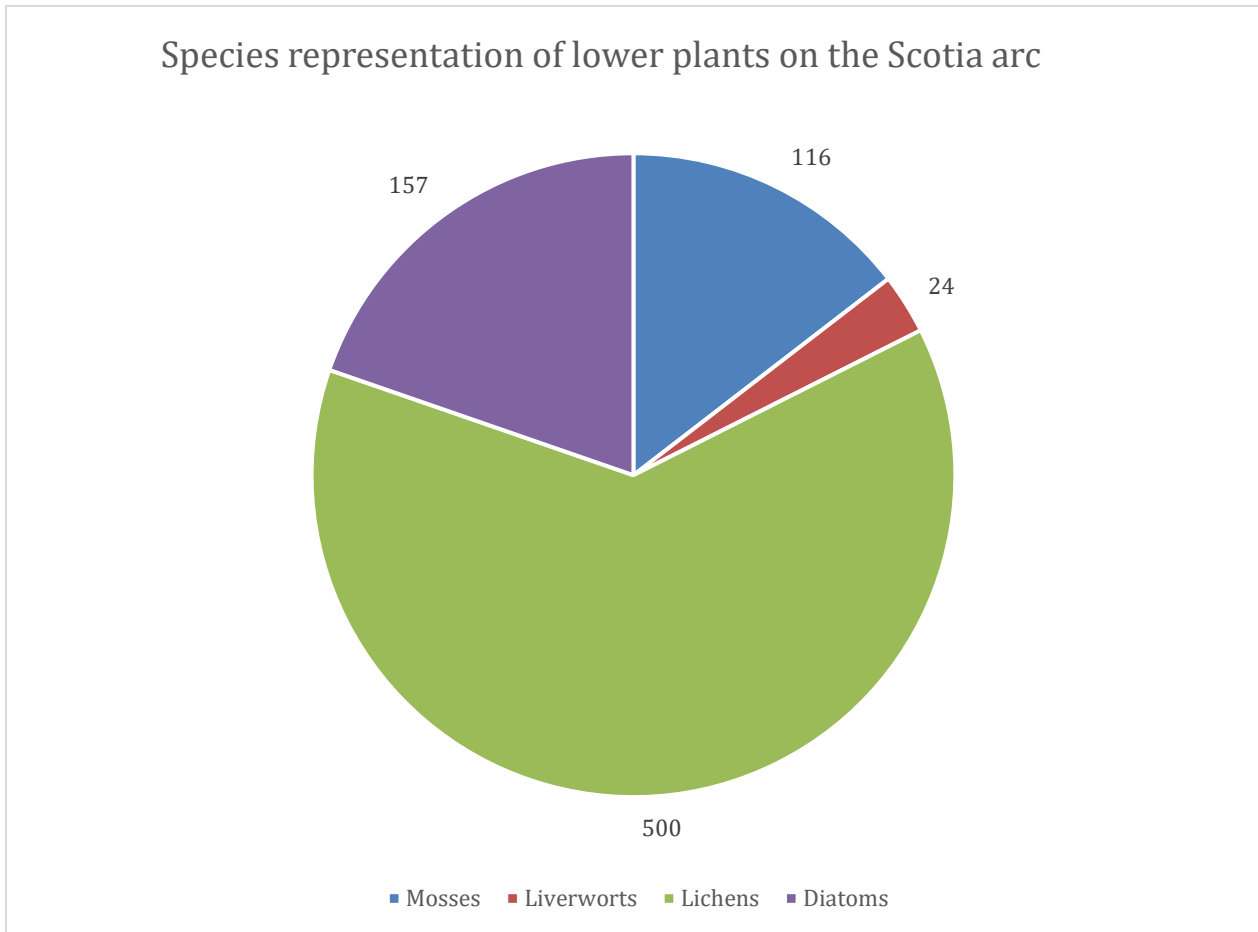


Fig. 8: General view of the representation of individual groups of flora on the continental fragments of Scotia Arc.

CONCLUSION

This bachelor thesis focuses on non-marine nonvascular plants from the Scotia Arc area. Despite the very interesting geographical location, ocean origin number of interesting habitats, most of the archaeological flora of the archipelago is known only to a limited extent. This summary work is a proof of how the occurrence of lower plants in the Scotia Arc area affects not only the geographical position, biogeographical factors, but also the conditions on the individual islands. The islands are not far apart, but factors such as sea currents or the sale of air masses can affect basic biogeographical indicators and thus isolate some islands. Isolate and prevent the occurrence of a certain group of lower plants. It is not possible to rely on basic ecological rules when looking at such a large area of study, it is always important to define the area correctly. The islands in the Scotia Arc zone are of various sizes, from the smallest rocks to large islands, such as the Falklands, which are inhabited by the permanent inhabitants of this island. Islands closer to mainland Antarctica are covered in ice and snow for most of the year. Therefore, the occurrence of lower plants is limited to the bays and coves of these islands. Some bays are

without snow cover during the year, so they are a sufficient environment for lichens or mosses. These communities are also affected by the fact that there are large populations of seabirds, penguins, or pinnipeds and cetaceans. During their lifetime, they produce enough animal waste for the growth of lower plants. We must not neglect the infiltration of organisms, often associated with polar expeditions and their frequent activity on these islands. The Scotia Arc area has often been studied from the point of view of geology, botany, limnology, etc These studies have undergone innumerable revisions, mainly botanical studies. Unfortunately, always only on a specific island or bay. Areas after the retreat of the ice masses are often neglected because they are present on a certain island for only a short, given part of the year. Many expeditions deal with corrections for the determination of individual species, but do not deal with their possible interconnection and joint occurrence on remote islands. Only after reading the individual works is, it clears which, for example, the air masses influence the distribution of individual spores, or which bird populations contribute to the spread of these lower plants or diatoms, for example on feathers. It is also obvious that the distribution in this locality is maintained by the sea current together with the ice floes that move between the individual islands. As for the individual islands and their isolation, geothermal activity is very active on many islands. It contributes to the differentiation of flora, despite the fact that we bend between islands that are only a few hundred meters apart, or on one particular island, but in its more distant parts. It is therefore quite clear why current scientific expeditions examine only a given part of the island complex or individual bays. It is therefore very likely that this area will still arouse great interest, not only botanists, geologists, biogeographers But it must be said that the determination of species on these islands cannot be constantly revised and often come to new species. only by performing the tenth revision in order on a given island or bay. It is necessary to pay attention to the similarities between biota in individual localities and to better structure this large area. Unfortunately, there is not much work that would deal with this topic, rather none. So, I hope that I have at least provided an insight into this issue, which no one has been dealing with much to date, and presented the need to address the similarities in these localities to help us consider and research diatoms and their distribution in continental Antarctica.

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APENDIX

Peltigera didactyla
P. neckeri
P. rufescens
Peltularia sp. A
Pertusaria coccodes
P. corallophora
P. erubescens
P. excluders
P. isidioides
P. panyrga
P. pseuoculata
P. signyae
P. spegazzinii
P. sp. A
Phaeophyscia endococcina
Phaeorrhiza nimbose
P. sareptana
Physcia caesia
P. dubia
Physconia muscigena
Placopsis contortuplicata
P. parellina
P. pycnotheca
Placynthiella icmalea
Placynthium asperillum
Platismatia glauca
Pleopsidium chlorophanum
Poeltidea peru.yta
Polyblastia gelatinosa
P. gothica
Porpidia austroschetlandica
P. skottshergiana
Protoparmelia badia
P. loricata
P. sp. A
Protothelanela sphinctrinoidella
Pseudophebe minuscula
P. pubescens
Pseudocyphellaria endochrysa
P. freycinetii
Psilolechia lucida
P. pseuoculata
P. signyae
P. spegazzinii
P. sp. A
Phaeophyscia endococcina
Phaeorrhiza nimbose
P. sareptana
Physcia caesia
P. dubia

Condition of Scotia arc

Scotia Arc: South Georgia - SG, Ammenkov Island - AI, Bird Island - BI, Cooper Island - CI, Grass Island - GI, Jomfruemø - JO, Pickersgill Islands - PI, Welcome Islands - WI, Willis Islands - WJ, Trinity Island - TI, Sandwich Islands: Visokoi Island - VI, Zavodovski Island - ZAI, Cook Island - COKI, Candlerman Island - CANDI, Bellingshausen Island - BELI, Leskov Island - LI, Traversay Islands - TRI, Saunders Island - SI, Montagu Island - MI, Bristol Island - BRI, Southern Thule - ST, South Orkney Islands: Coronation Island - CORI, Laurie Island - LI, Powell Island - POI, Signy Island - SIGI, Inaccessible Islands - INAI, South Shetland Islands: Elephant Island - ELI, King George Island - KINGI, Livingston Island - LIVI, Deception Island - DEI.

Condition	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands												South Orkney Islands												South Shetland Is.					
	South Georgia						Sandwich Islands						South Orkney Islands						South Shetland Is.											
	SG	AI	BI	CI	GI	JO	PI	WI	WJ	TI	TRAI	BELI	LI	CANDI	COKI	SI	ZAI	MI	BRII	VI	ST	CORI	LI	POI	SIGI	INAI	ELI	KINGI	DEI	LVI
∅ temperature per year in °C	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3
∅ temperature per summer °C	6	6	6	6	5	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
time of island formation in Ma	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	12,5	12,5	12,5	12,5	12,5	12,5	12,5	12,5
coordinates in decimal values	51,7; 58,6	54,3; 37,1	54,0; 38,0	43,6; 73,5	14, 61	54,1; 38,0	54,6; 36,7	53,9; 37,5	54; 38,2	54; 0; 38,2	56; 7; 27,2	56,2; 27,6	60,7; 44,6	57,1; 27	59,4; 27,2	57,8; 26,4	56,6; 27,6	58,4; 26,3	59; 26,5	56,7; 27,2	59,4; 27,3	60,6; 45,5	60,4; 45,3	60,7; 45,1	60,7; 45,6	61,55	61,1; 55,2	62; 58,4	62,6; 60,4	62,9; 60,6