

TURUN YLIOPISTON JULKAISUJA
ANNALES UNIVERSITATIS TURKUENSIS

SARJA - SERIES A

II. BIOLOGICA - GEOGRAPHICA

32

This first volume of "Reports from the Kevo Subarctic Research Station" is dedicated to all those whos generous support has facilitated the founding and erecting of the Station.

REPORTS FROM THE KEVO SUBARCTIC RESEARCH STATION

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KEVO
Turun Yliopiston
Lapin tutkimuslaitos
Turku 1964

TURUN YLIOPISTO

Turku
Kirjapaino Polytypos
1964

P R E F A C E

In 1957 the University of Turku established the *Kevo Subarctic Research Station* in Finnish Lapland to function as a base for research into natural sciences in the area. The geographical coordinates of the station are 69°45' N latit. and 27°E longit.

Already before this — from the year 1954 — instructors and students at the University of Turku made excursions into the area to collect specimens, but it is only after the station was founded and buildings were erected, equipped with electricity and scientific instruments that experimental research could be initiated.

A part of the research work carried out to date has been described in various journals. As the work increased in volume, it seemed appropriate to collect the papers as far as possible in one journal. The purpose of this collection of papers is to provide as many-sided a picture as possible of the activity at the Station and of the natural history of Lapland which forms the research area. The first papers are expressly intended to introduce the reader to the general aspects of nature in the area. One reason for this is that in the early period of existence of the station the only possible activities were field studies during excursions. These studies were greatly furthered by the eager participation of young students of biology. The research work done has largely centred on botanical problems although also students of zoology and geography took part in the excursions.

Now after eleven years of field work relatively much is known about numerous aspects of the conditions that prevail in the research area, but the area cannot yet be considered thoroughly investigated.

The research area is a part of the limited subarctic region of Finland. The problems of interest there to biologists and geographers are connected with research into forest zones that is of prime importance in Finland but also relate to the transition zone between temperate and arctic zones. This latter is of particular interest in view of the great strides that have been made in various fields of science as they relate to arctic conditions. One of the difficulties associated with subarctic research has been the great distance that has separated subarctic regions from research centres (universities). The purpose of the Kevo Subarctic Station is to eliminate as far as possible the difficulties arising from distance and to take advantage of the fact that

Finland extends over ten degrees of latitude in the north-south direction and thus over a whole biozone.

In the future the programmes of the research at Kevo will vary — and will not be limited to research in biology and geography — but it is hoped that papers of every number of this journal will serve to make Kevo and its surroundings a centre of research in subarctic problems, and that it will possess significance as a special base in a region of the circumpolar subarctic zone where nature extends in full force to the 70th parallel.

This collection of "Reports from the Kevo Subarctic Research Station" (Rep. Kevo Subarctic Sta.) is a part of the "Annales Universitatis Turkuensis", Ser. A, II (Biologica-Geographica) and forms the tenth volume of this series.

Turku, October 5, 1964

PAAVO KALLIO

YRJÖ MÄKINEN

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