

Discrimination of *Draba* (Brassicaceae) in Iceland

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There are about 350 species of *Draba* worldwide but only eight of those are found in Iceland. This genus belongs to the mustard family (Brassicaceae). It is widespread in Iceland but the distribution is sparse and some species are very specialized in their choice of habitat. It can be very difficult to identify some of the species of *Draba* and its division into species is controversial. In Iceland *Draba norvegica*, which is a very variable species, is considered by some taxonomists to consist of more than one species.

Chromosome number of *Draba* can vary between species and polyploidy is common in this genus. Species are known to hybridize rather easily and there is still much mystery about their origin and species relationship.

To identify the species of *Draba*, plants and seeds, as morphologically diverse as possible, were collected from several places in Iceland. These plants have been identified, using a Norwegian identification key since all the species already recorded in Iceland are found in Norway as well. The plants have also been grouped by means of other morphological features and those characters used to make an identification key in the computer program DELTA (Description Language for TAXonomy). The number of chromosomes in each group is being counted. Preliminary results on the morphological and cytotaxonomical classification of Icelandic species of *Draba* will be presented.