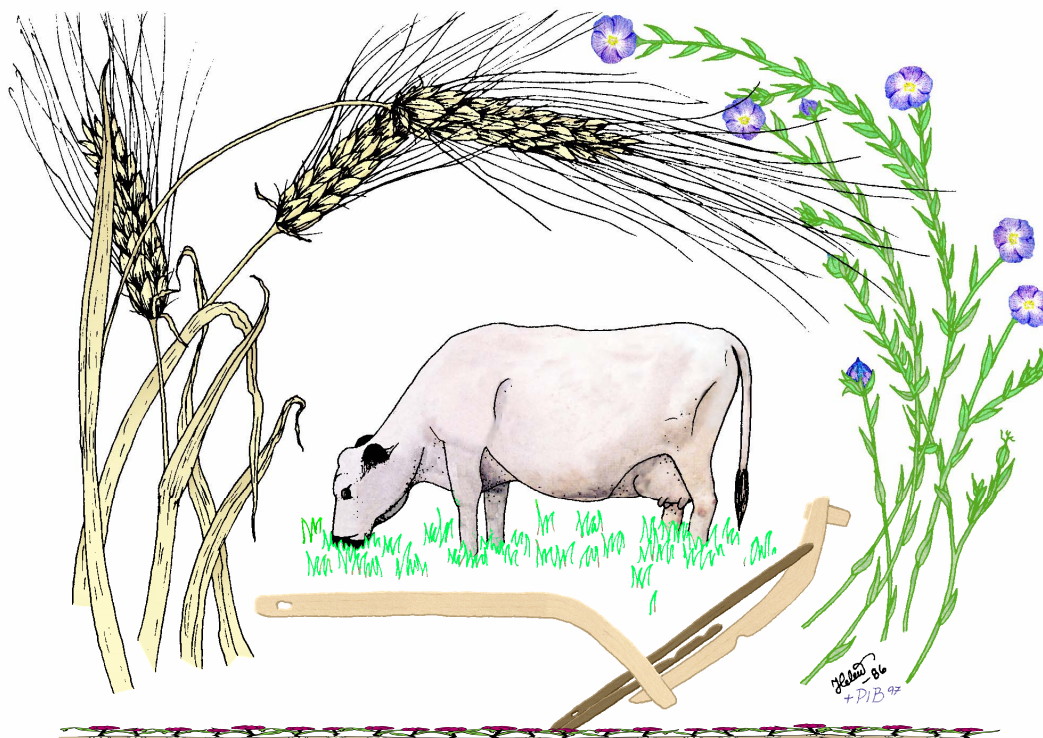


# ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY LAB.

REPORT nr. 2006-0020



Preliminary Report  
Fossil insect remains from Karahnjúkar,  
Iceland

By

P. I. Buckland

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & SAMI STUDIES





## **Preliminary Report: Fossil insect remains from Karahnjukar, Iceland**

by P. I. Buckland

2006-04-27

MAL Report nr. 2006-020

Project: Iceland: Karahnjukar  
Contractor's reference: KHN05  
MAL's Reference: 06.0012

Number of samples: 4  
Job scope: Fossil insect analyses of floated and extracted insect remains.  
Analyses & report by: Phil Buckland

Note: All result and interpretations are preliminary, and as such may be changed as a result of the detailed analysis process.

### **Preliminary Results**

**Sample number: 4 (Context number: 48)**

#### *Preliminary list of taxa*

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Approx. MNI</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Curculionidae?	fragment	Weevil?

#### *Interpretation*

Possibly Otiorrhynchus nodosus, but very small fragment.

**Sample number: 15 (Context number: 71)**

#### *Preliminary taxa list*

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Approx. MNI</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Carabidae	2	Ground beetles.
Curculionidae?	fragment	Weevil?

#### *Interpretation*

Carabid fragments are most likely Pterosticus sp.

**Sample number: 18 (Context number: 71)**

***Preliminary taxa list***

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Approx. MNI</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Aphodius sp.	1	Dung beetle
Carabidae	13	Ground beetles, 2-3 spp.
Curculionidae	10	Weevils, ca. 2spp.
Other	2	

***Interpretation***

The majority of the Carabids are probably *Pterostichus strenuus/diligens*, with one individual of c.f. *Amara* sp. The weevil species are most probably *Otiorhynchus arcticus* and *O. nodosus*. These are all most probably part of the natural fauna of Iceland, and prefer moist terrestrial environments. The dung beetle is interesting, but requires identification to species (if possible) before it can be said as to whether it is an indigenous or imported species. It may be possible to suggest possible host animals, and give an indication of the probability of it representing wild or domestic fauna. The 'Other' fragments may be identifiable to generic level.

**Sample number: 106 (Context number: 252)**

***Preliminary taxa list***

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Approx. MNI</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Carabidae	2	Ground beetles
Curculionidae	5	Weevils, 2spp.
Other	1	Possibly a weevil

***Interpretation***

The ground beetle is probably *Pterostichus strenuus/diligens*. The weevils are probably *Otiorhynchus* spp. (see Sample 18).

**Summary**

With the exception of Sample 18, all samples most probably contain only species representative of the natural ground fauna of Iceland at this present day, indicating an unspecific moist habitat. Sample 18 contains additional species which may be able to give further environmental indicators, including an indication of dung. Only samples 18 and 106 contain enough individuals to perform a climate and environmental reconstruction, although sample 15 could provide a broad climate indication.





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