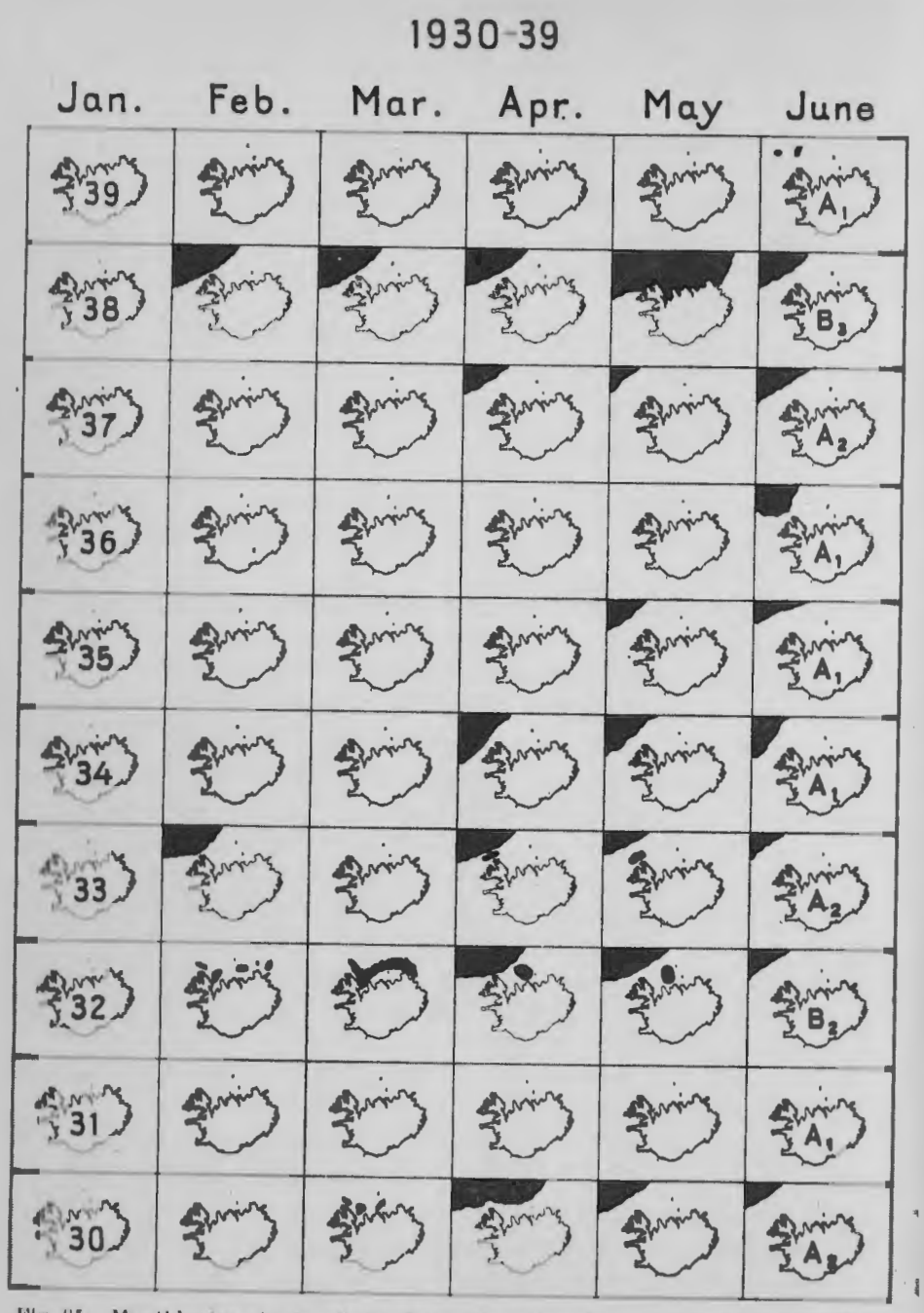


Fig. 85. Monthly ice charts of the Icelandic waters from 1877—1939, according to the year-books issued by the Danish Meteorological Institute and the papers by Ryder and other authors.

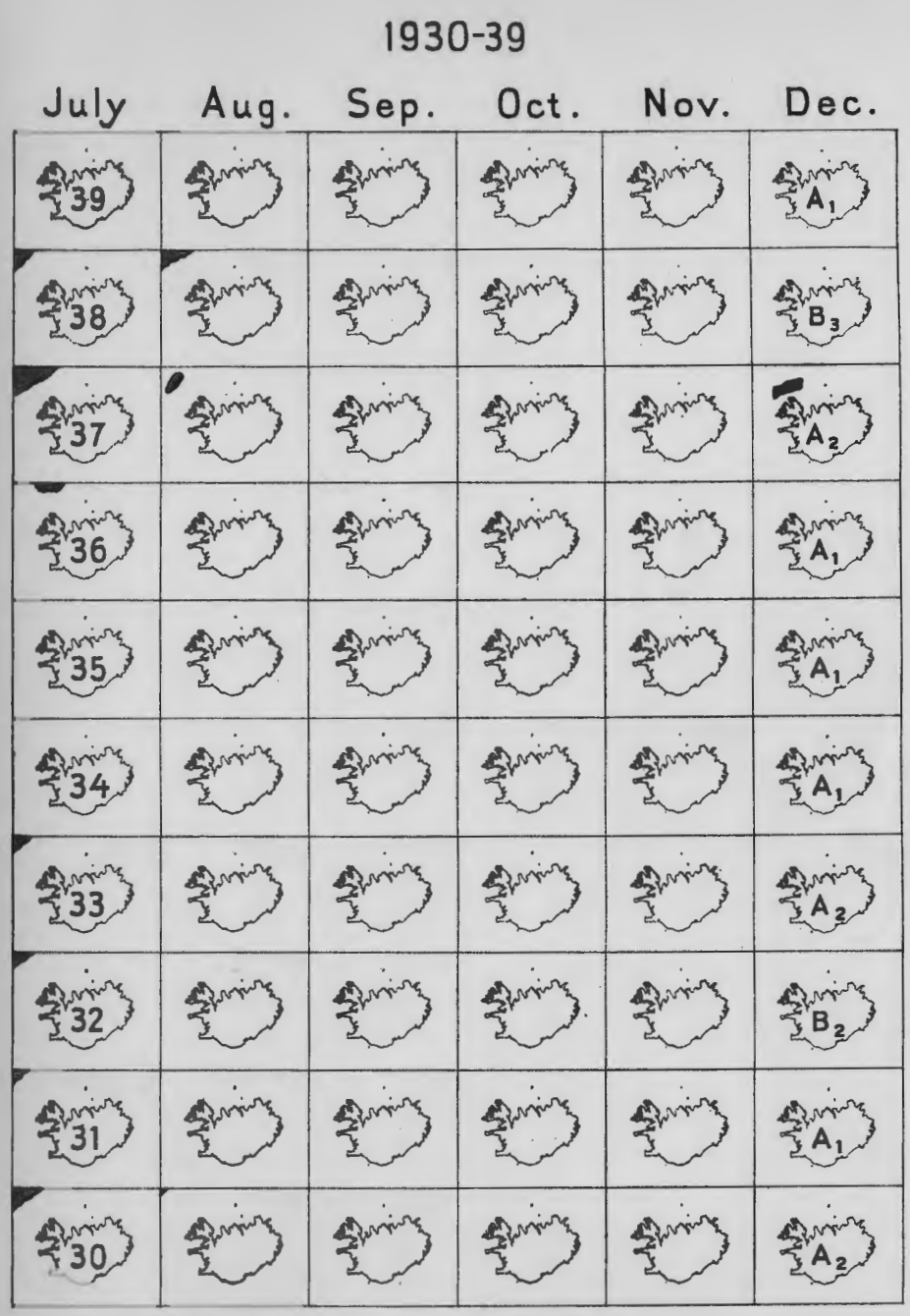


Fig. 86. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

Lauge Koch (1945), Hlynur Sigtryggsson (1969)

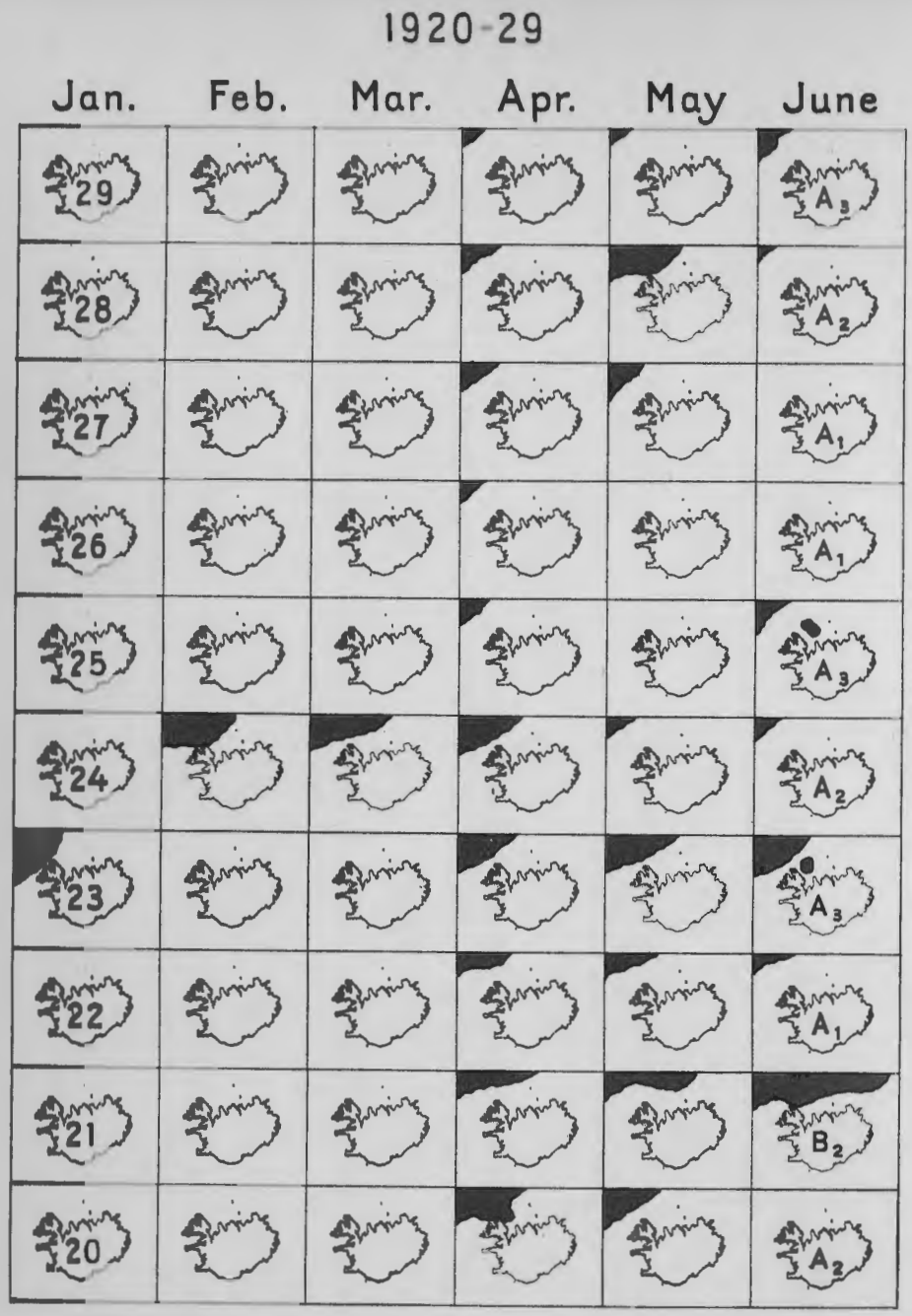


Fig. 87. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

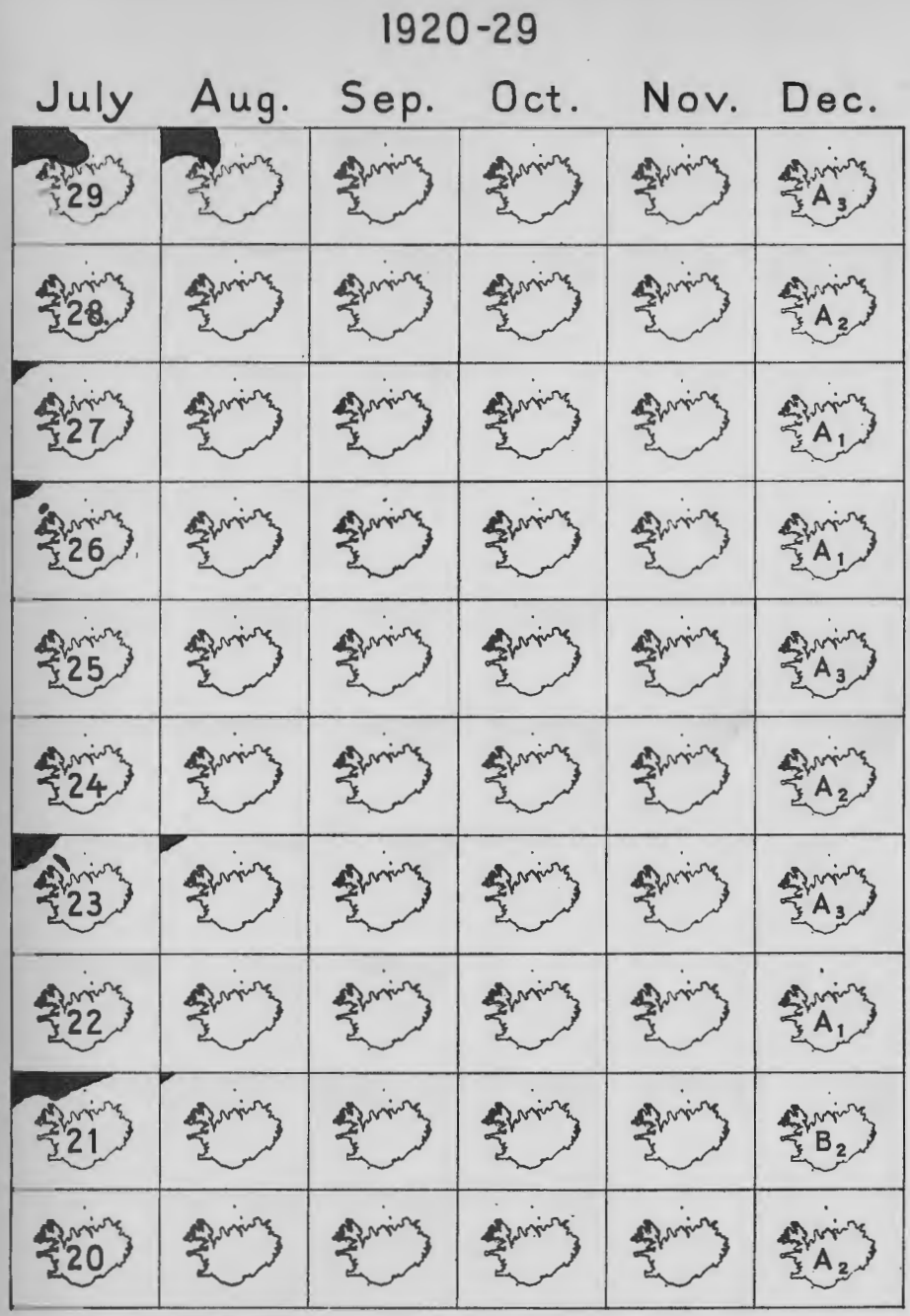


Fig. 88. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

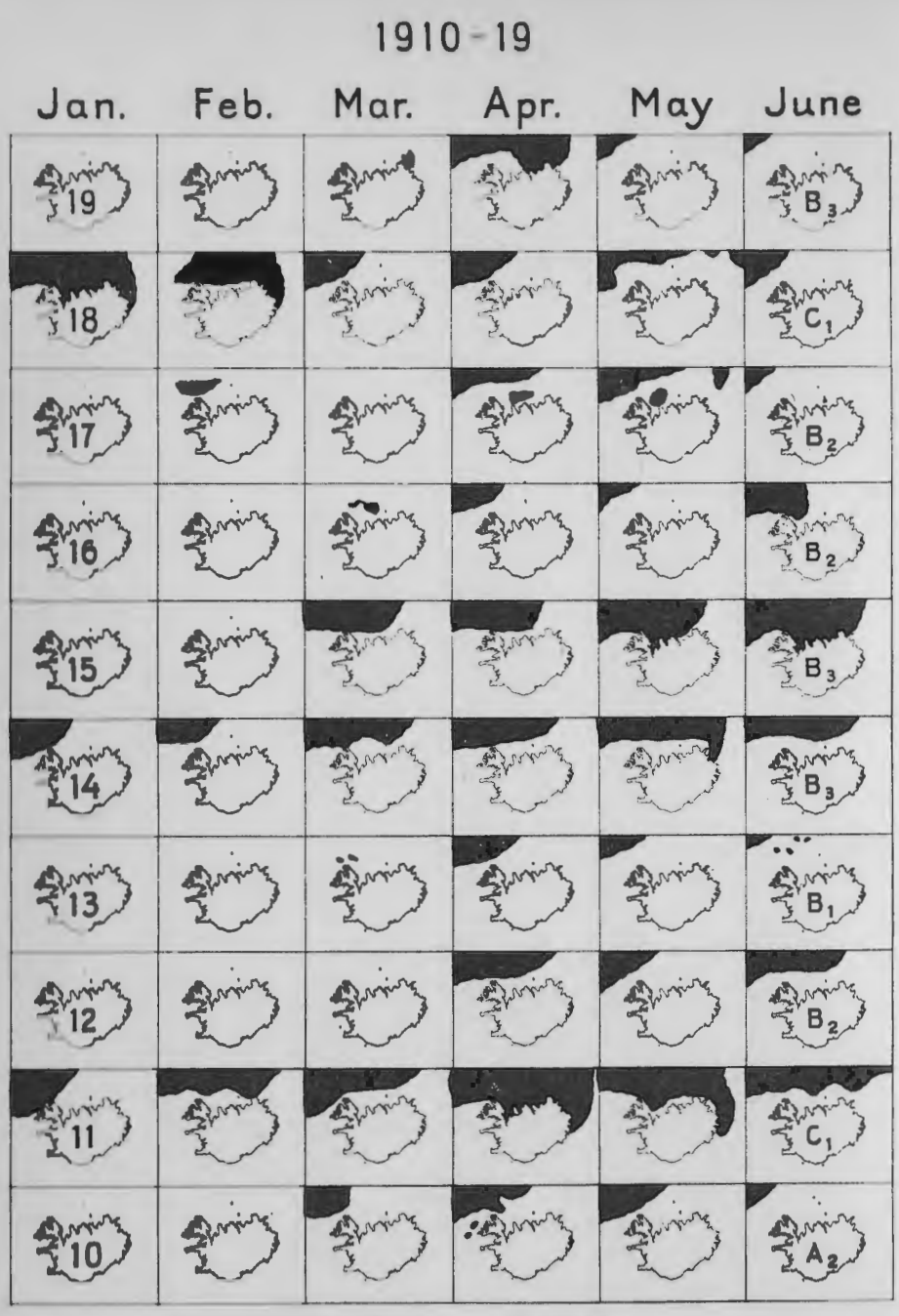


Fig. 89. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

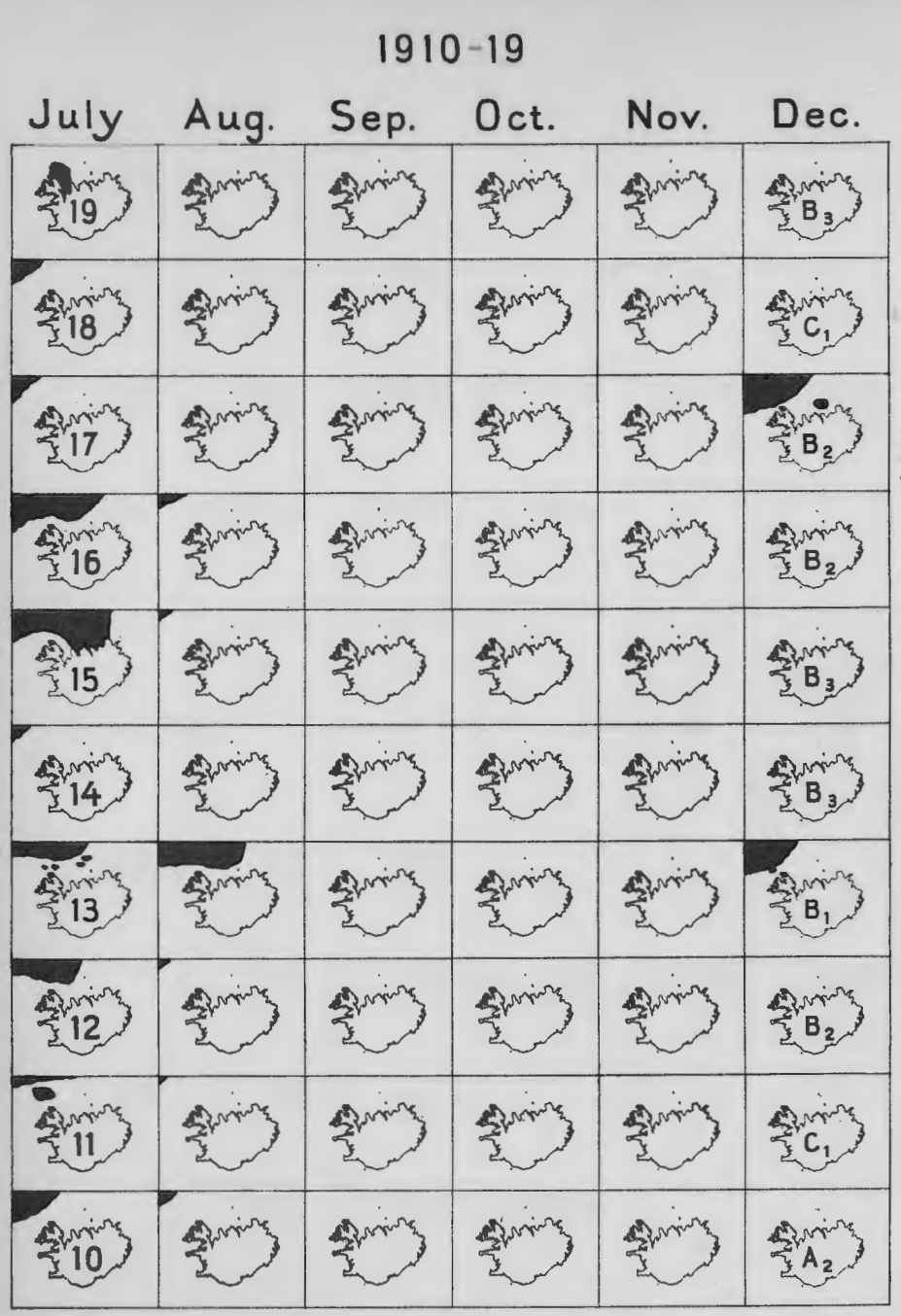


Fig. 90. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

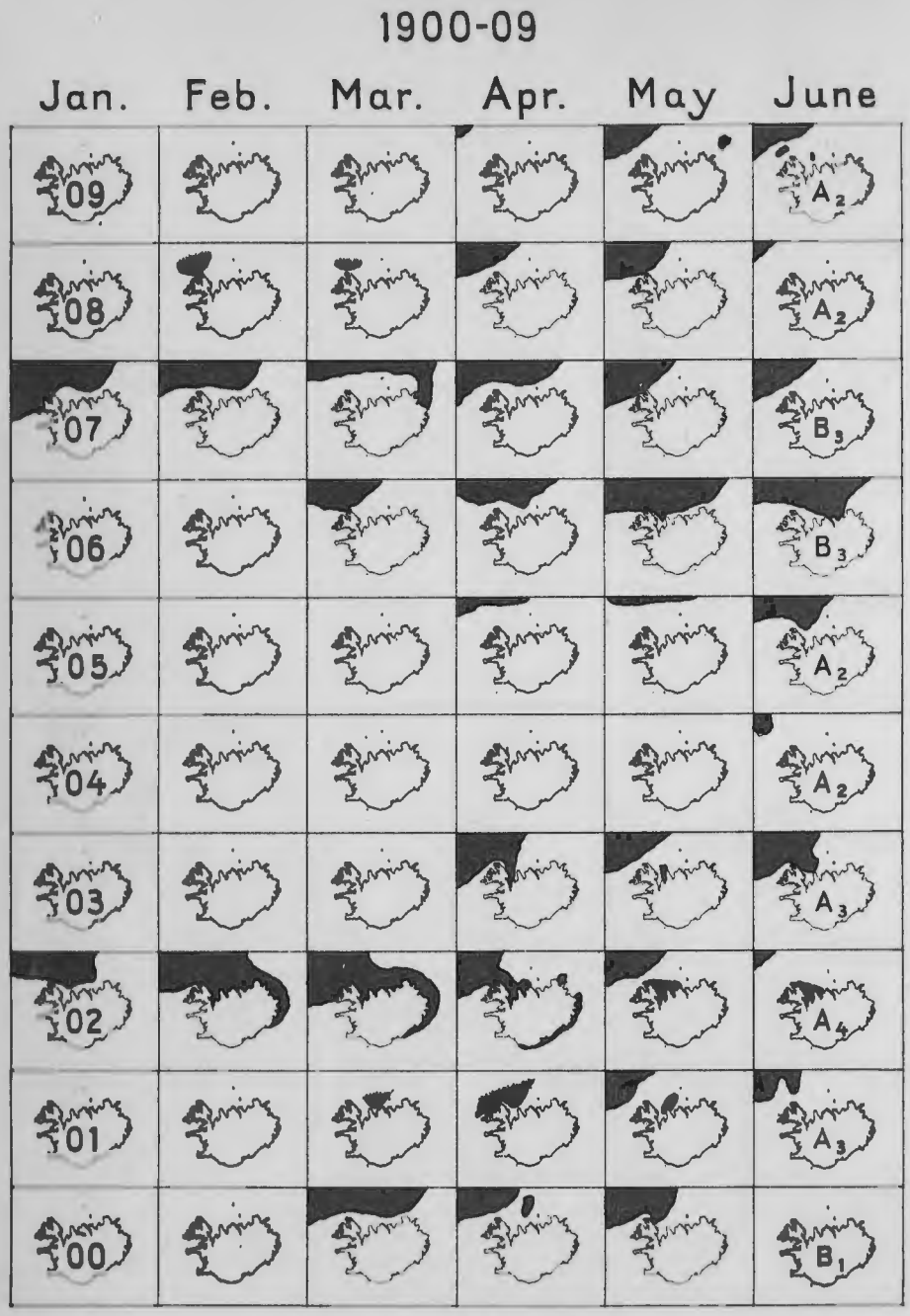


Fig. 91. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

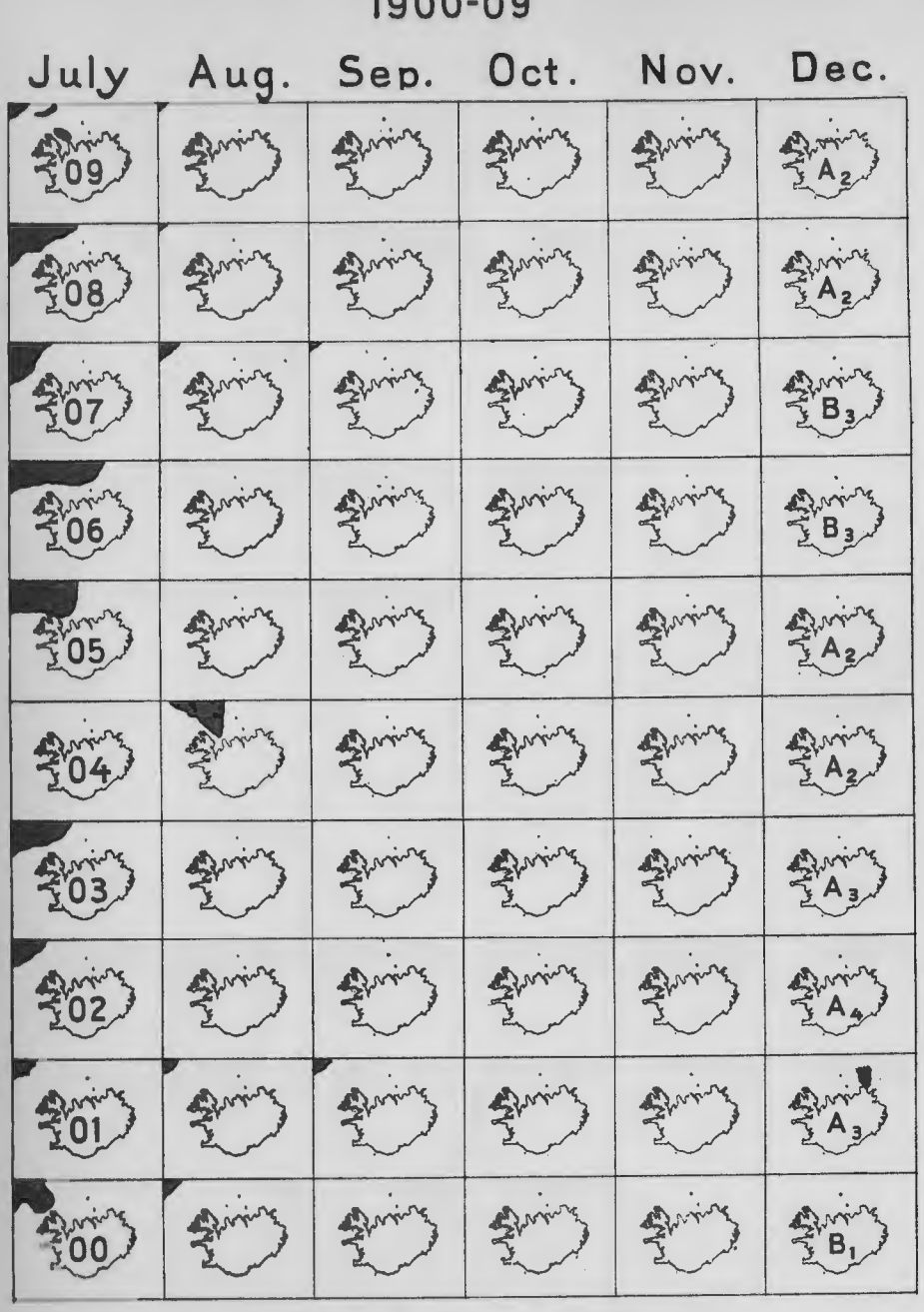


Fig. 92. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

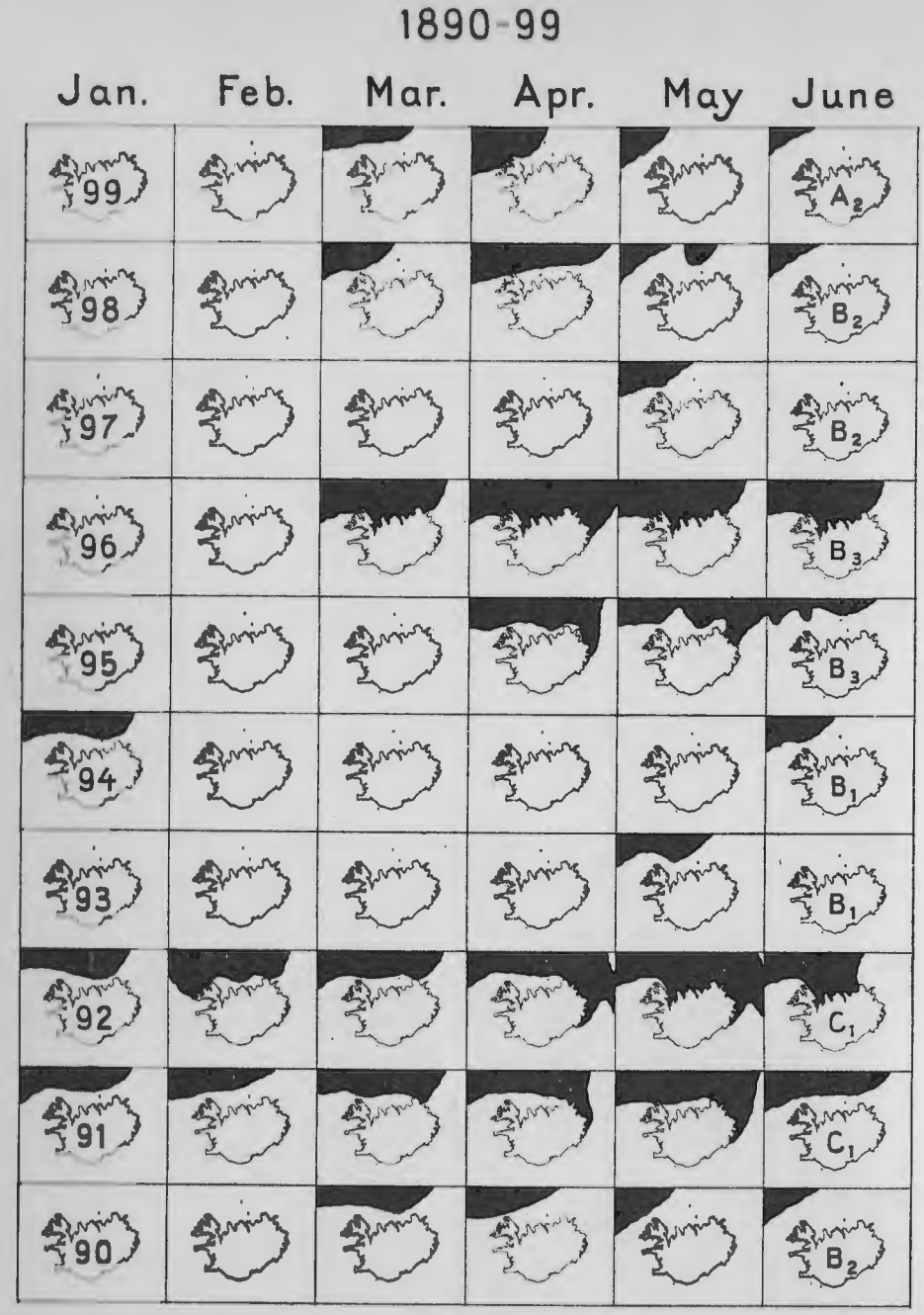


Fig. 93. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

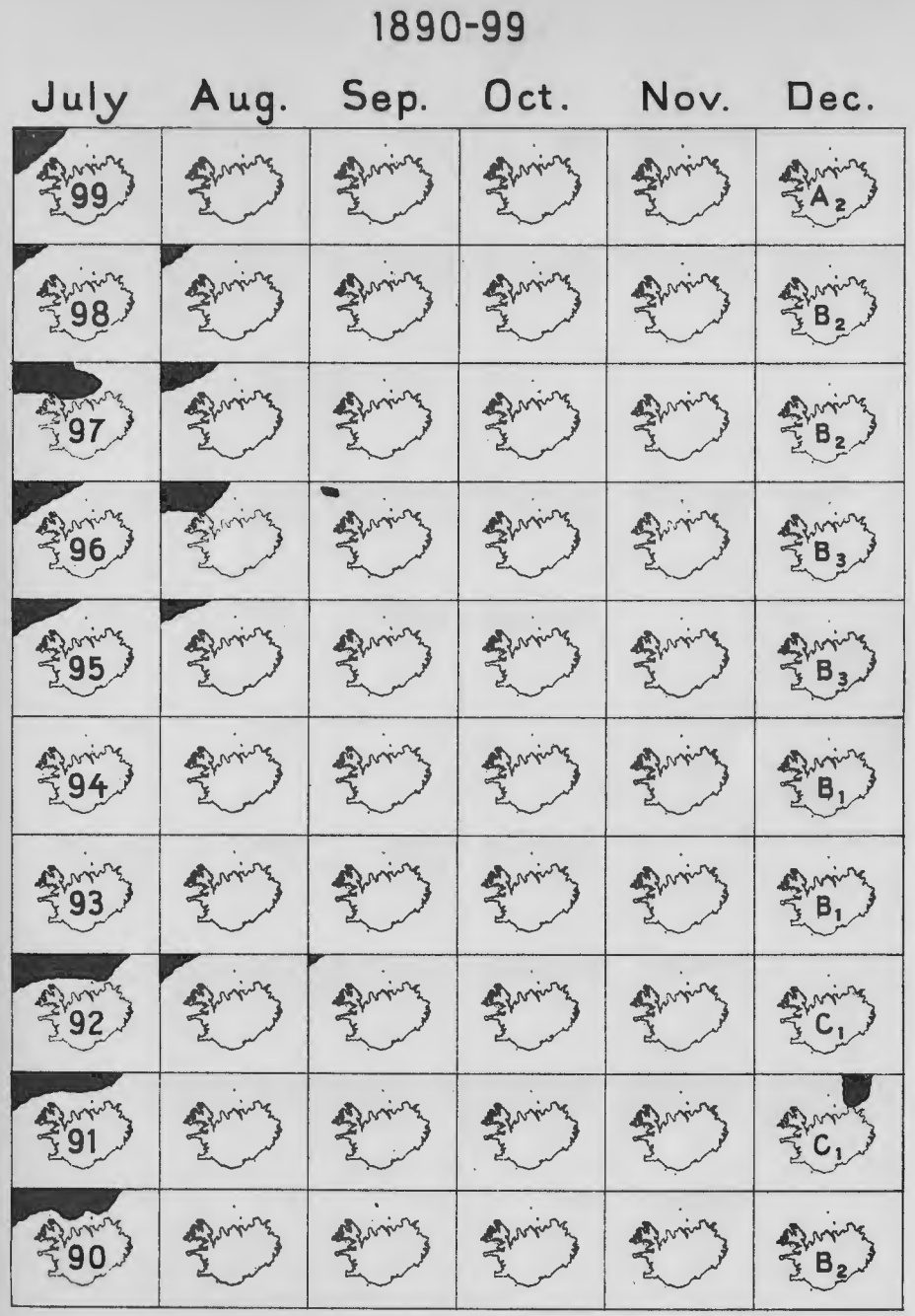


Fig. 94. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

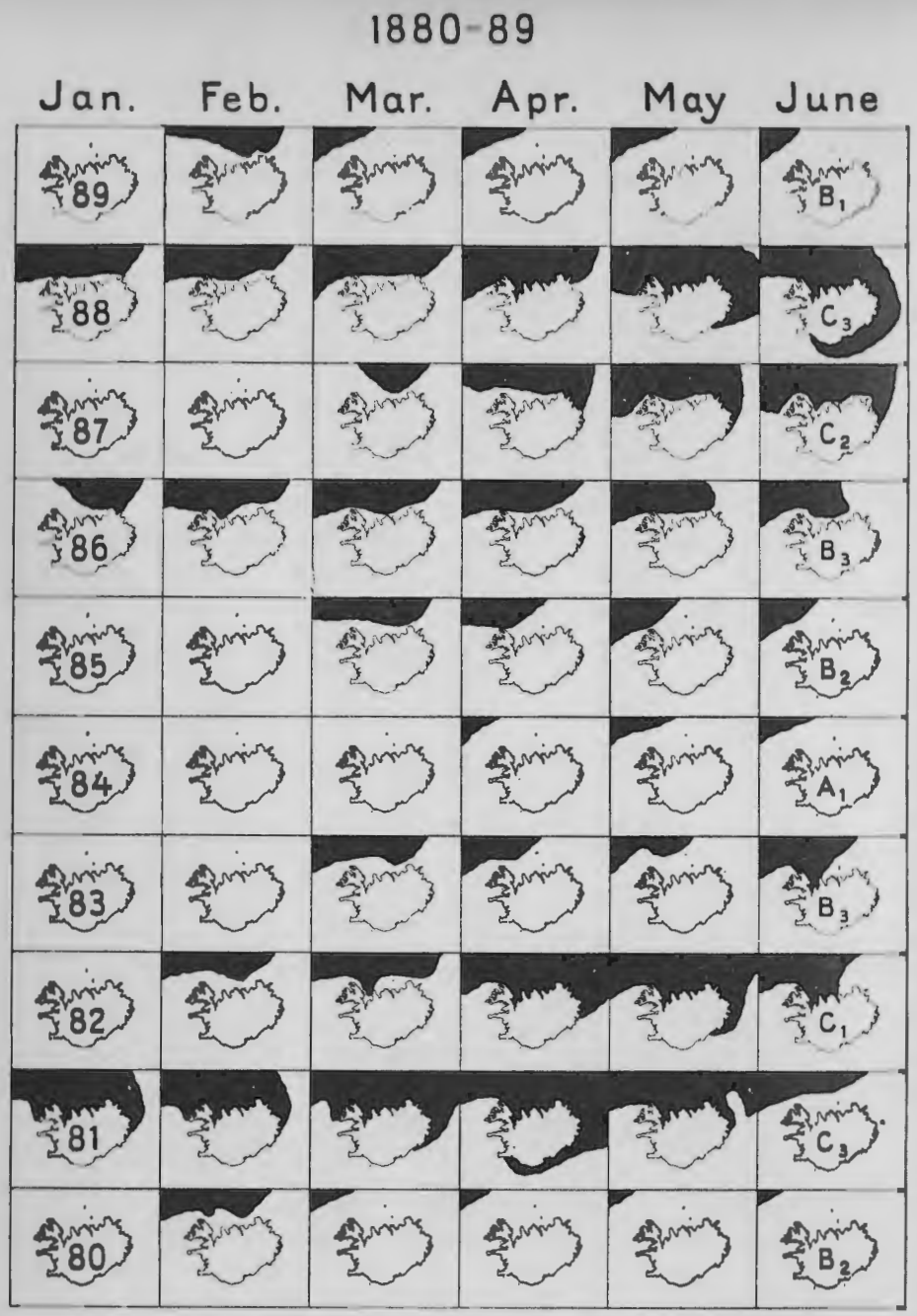


Fig. 95. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

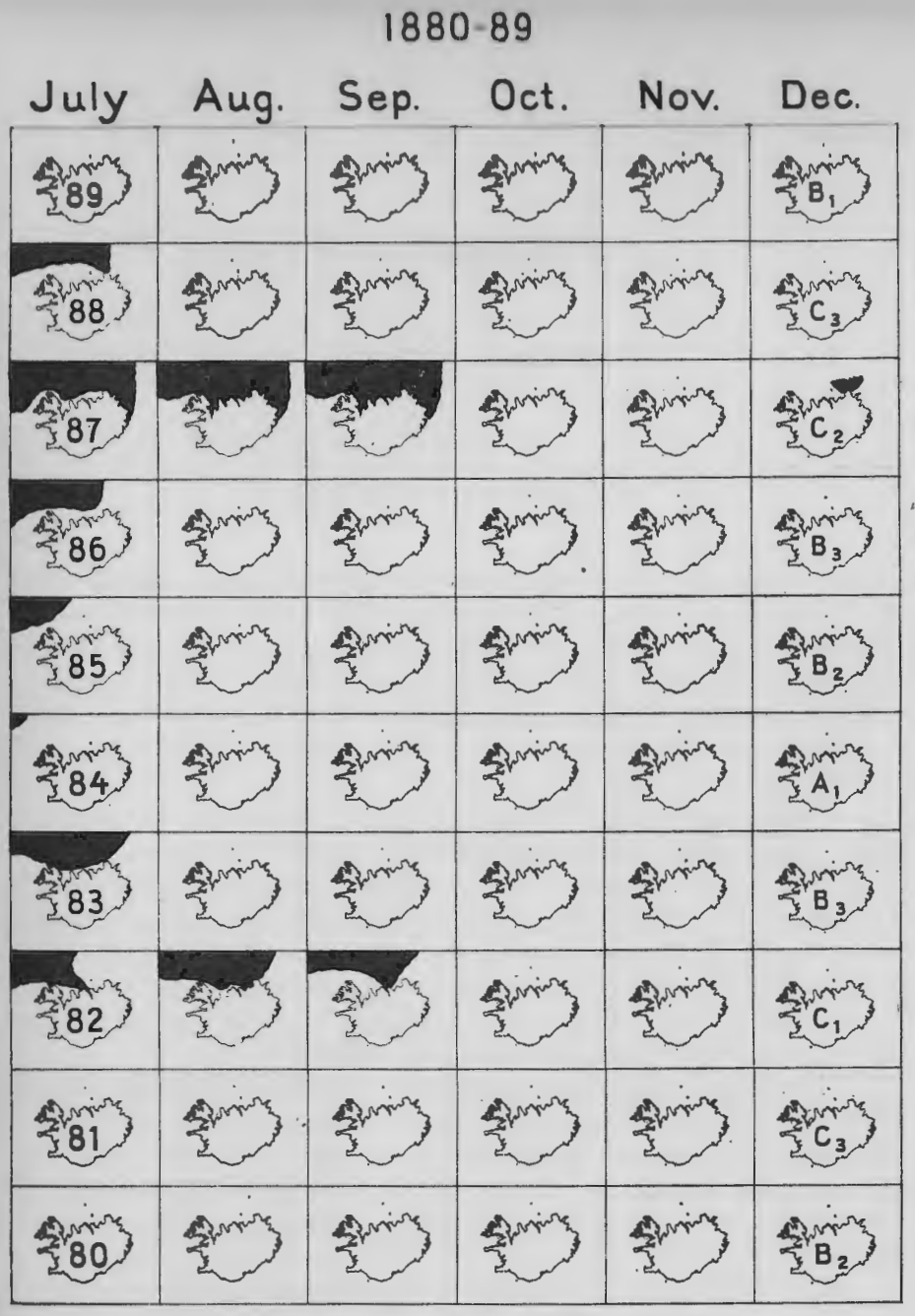


Fig. 96. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

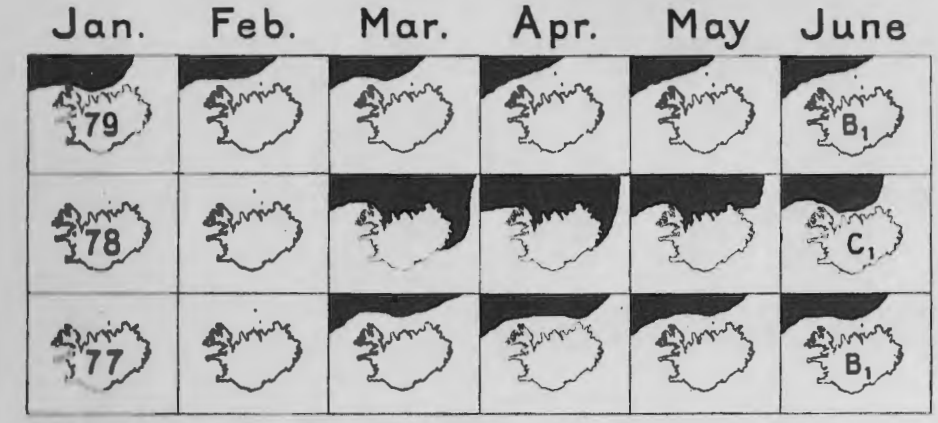


Fig. 97. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

contains the following passage, which probably explains the peculiar ice conditions in July and August of that year: "A little before the middle of July strong northerly winds were blowing between Jan Mayen and Greenland and also north of Iceland, while southerly winds were predominant south of Angmagssalik. These conditions have probably been the cause of the great accumulation of ice on the northwest coast of Iceland."

These years represent the period of the most favourable ice conditions known from Iceland: in eight years the ice lay at a great distance from Iceland all the year round, in one year (1938) ice occurred along the whole north coast during a short period, otherwise only small areas of the north coast were in touch with the ice for short periods. The ice was entirely absent from the east and south coasts.

In no year within the period 1900—1919 did the ice remain at a distance from Iceland all the year round.

The period includes eight A-years, but one of them, 1902, shows the highest possible A value, a narrow belt of ice reaching Vestmannaeyjar for a short period. Furthermore ten B-years and two C-years.

In the third period 1880—99 the conditions in Iceland were more severe than during the two periods of the present century just described.

The year 1881 may probably be characterised as the severest ice year in Iceland after 1800. As early as January the whole northwest, north, and east coasts were blocked by ice, which condition lasted till the beginning of May. In April the ice began to spread to the south coast, and in May a very broad belt of ice extended along the east

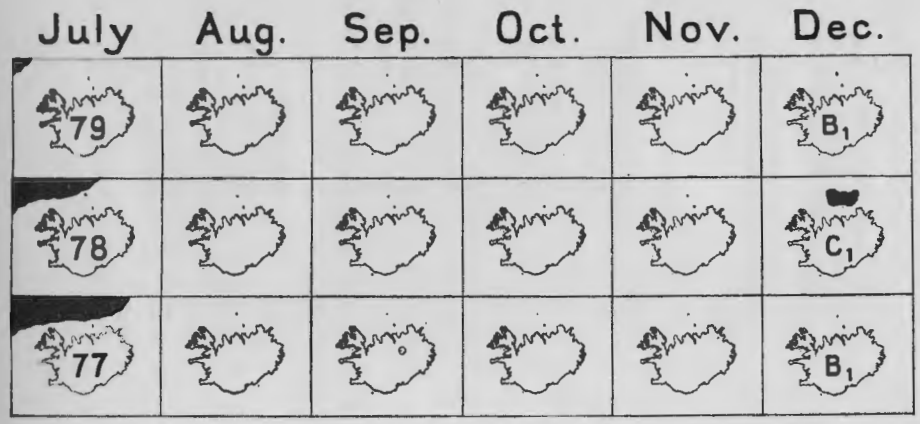


Fig. 98. Cf. the text to Fig. 85.

coast and a fairly broad ice belt along the south coast as far as Reykjanes.

On considering the last sixty years, it will be seen that the period

1920—39	includes	17	A-years,	3	B-years,	0	C-years,	altogether	17	months	with	ice
1900—19	—	8	—	10	—	2	—	—	48	—	—	-
1880—99	—	2	—	12	—	6	—	—	67	—	—	-

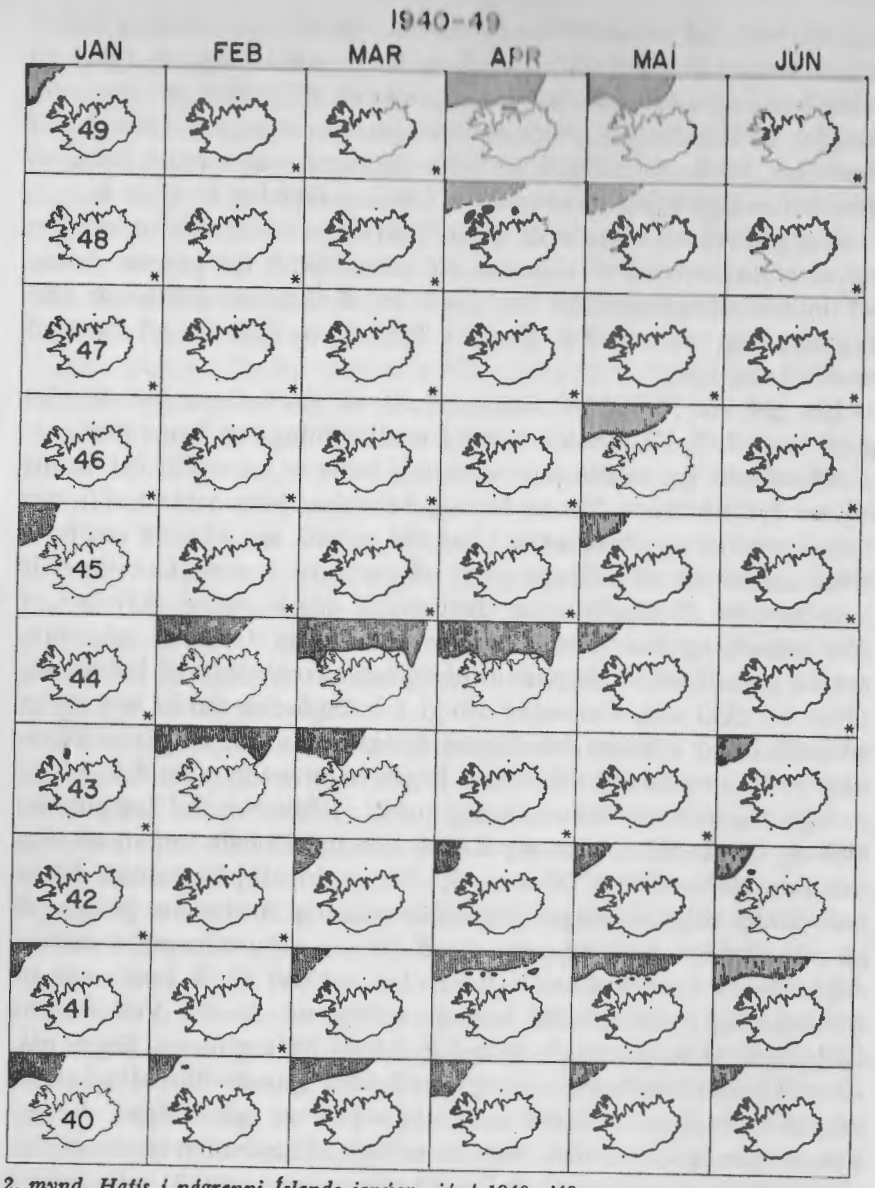
This shows that despite all the variations in the individual years, a constant improvement of the ice conditions around Iceland has taken place since the culmination of the heavy ice years at the beginning of the eighties of the last century, the breadth of the ice belt having constantly decreased from this time to the present.

The Iee between 65° N. lat. and Kap Farvel.

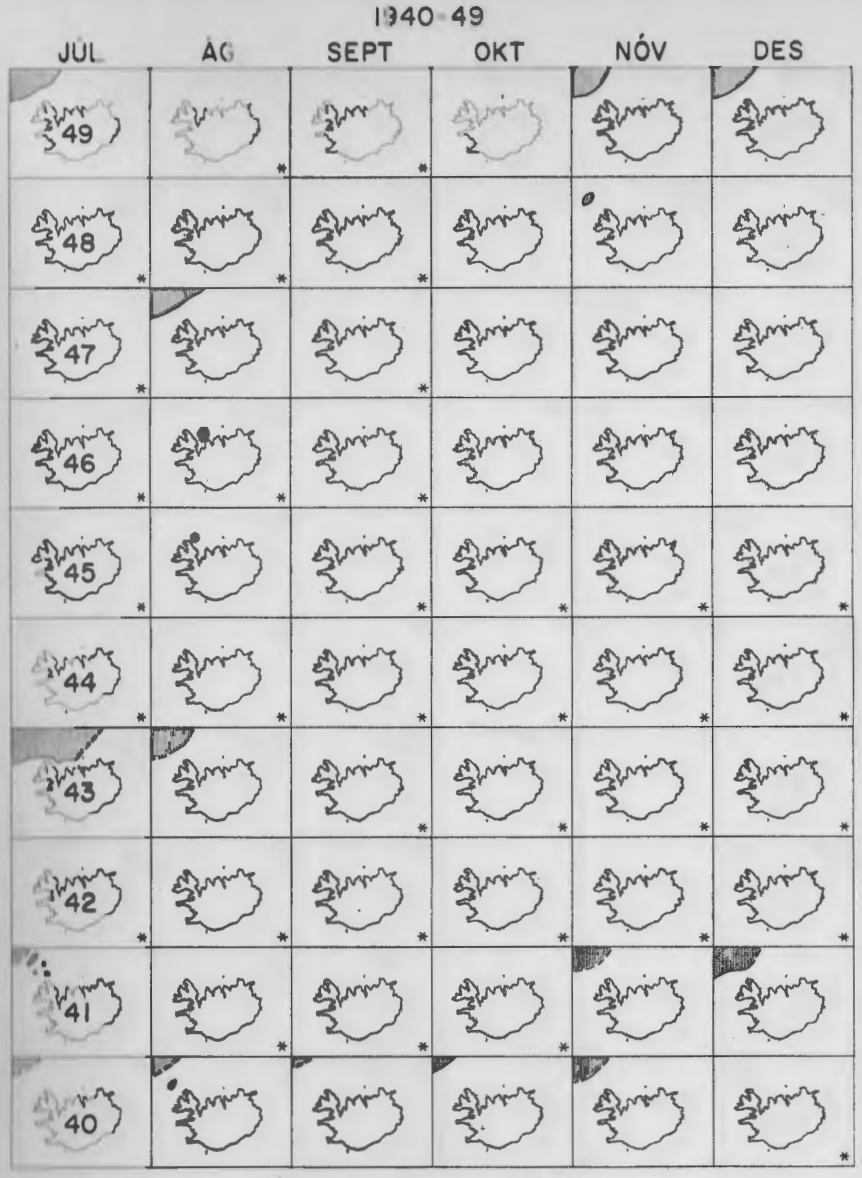
As stated above, the ice changes its character in the area between Iceland and the Angmagssalik district. The chief cause of this is that slightly north of 65° N. lat. the drift ice meets the westward-moving Irminger Current, which forces the north-south-moving Polar Current westward, and large ice masses melt where the two currents meet.

The Gulf Stream issues some few warm branches towards the Polar Current, and easterly winds occur especially in front of the margin of depressions moving north- or northeastwards, but north of Iceland the swell is hardly traceable very far into the ice belt.

South of 65° N. lat. conditions are quite different. Heavy gales, often blowing from the south, may even in the winter give rise to a

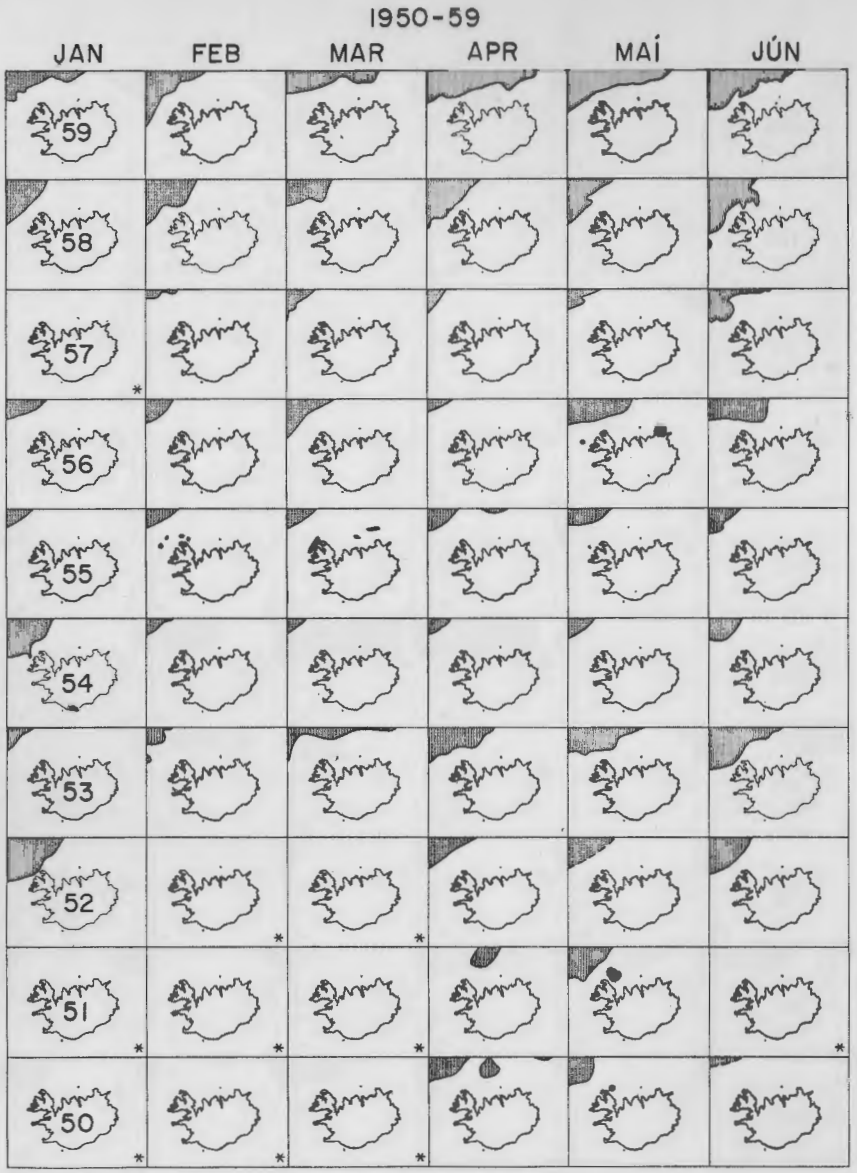


2. mynd. Hafís í nágrenni Íslands janúar—júní 1940—'49.

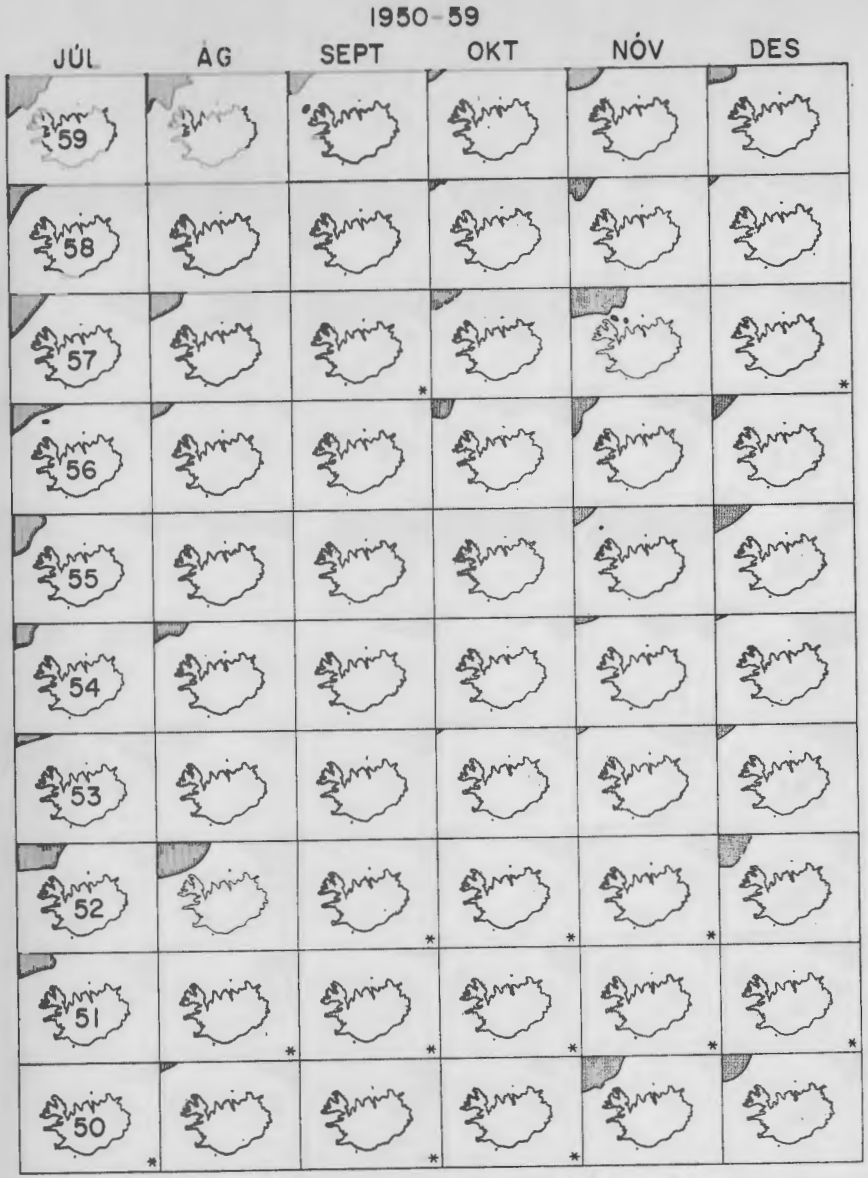


3. mynd. Hafís í nágrenni Íslands júlí—desember 1940—'49.

Lauge Koch (1945), Hlynur Sigtryggsson (1969)



4. mynd. Hafís í nágrenni Íslands janúar—júní 1950—'59.



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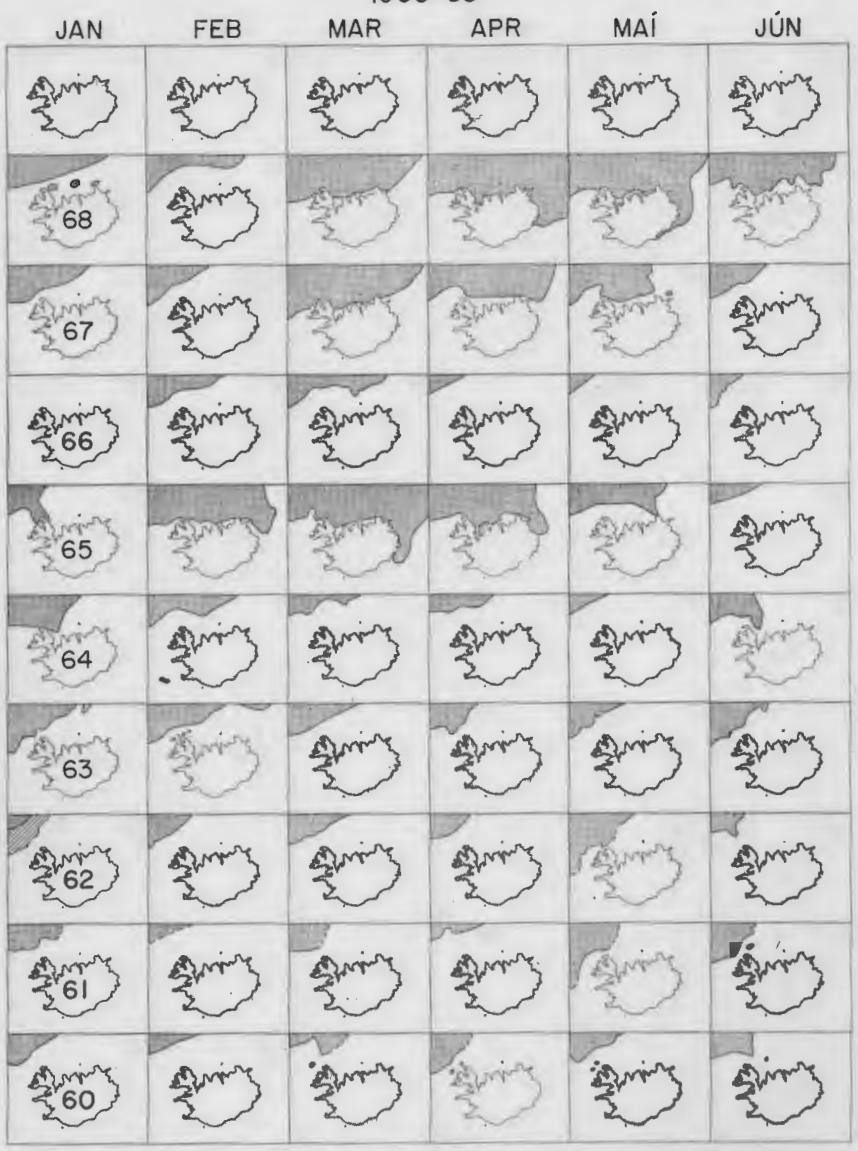
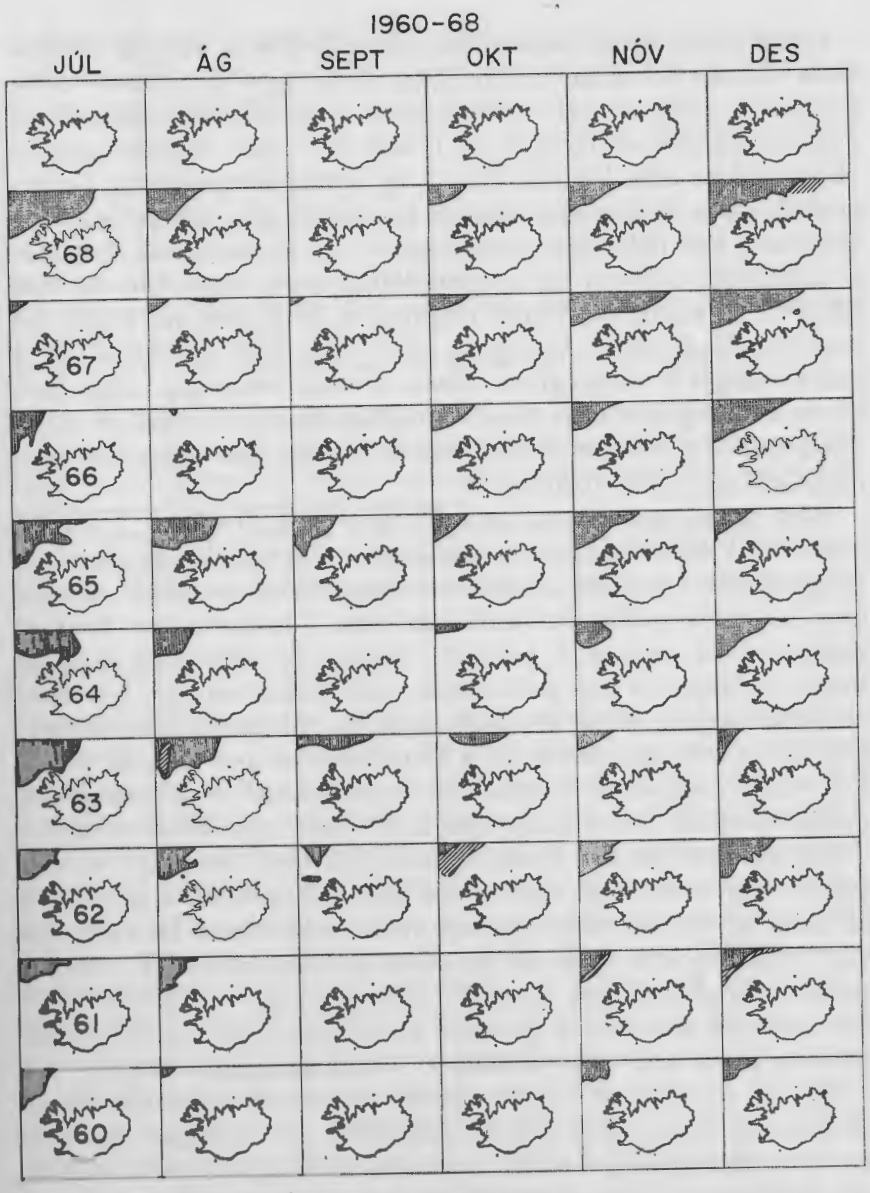
Lauge Koch (1945), Hlynur Sigtryggsson (1969)



6. mynd. Hafís í nágrenni Íslands janúar—júní 1960—'68.



7. mynd. Hafís í nágrenni Íslands júlí—desember 1960—'68.

Lauge Koch (1945), Hlynur Sigtryggsson (1969)