

Dating of the Fláajökull moraine ridges SE-Iceland; comparison of the glaciological, cartographic and lichenometrical data

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Abstract – *New lichenometric measurements performed on moraine ridges by Fláajökull demonstrate the difficulty in assessing lichen growth rate depending on its periglacial environment and climatic fluctuations. Lichens measured on the Fláajökull moraines do not match precisely any of the previously published growth curves. The Fláajökull glacier has retreated over 1500 m from its maximum position during the Little Ice Age (LIA), the oldest moraine ridge was abandoned in 1894. The recession was interrupted by longer advances or still-stands between 1903 and 1925 where moraine ridges II, III and IV were deposited. Ridges V, VI and VII were probably created in the late Pleistocene and were just overridden in LIA without significant remodelling. During the last two decades of the 20th century the glacier had both advances and still-stands, hence the stoss side of the VII moraine ridge has a thick new moraine cover. There is a clear correlation between the overall rate of the retreat of Fláajökull and 20th century climatic fluctuations.*