

# Tephra analyses of environmental and archaeological sequences in Denmark – first results and future prospects

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## Abstract

Volcanic ash (= tephra) consists of very fine pyroclastic material ejected during eruptions. These fine particles can reach tremendous heights in the atmosphere, stay aloft for extended periods, and be transported very long distances indeed. When a given eruption is dated and its tephra morphologically and geochemically described, it can be used to chronologically anchor terrestrial and marine environmental as well as archaeological stratigraphies, often with extremely high precision.

Recent years have seen a marked and continuing improvement in the extraction and identification of volcanic ash; numerous layers – usually but not always originating from the Icelandic volcanic systems – have been described from northern Germany, Sweden, and Norway, but not so far from Denmark.

Here we present the first results and prospects of building a terrestrial tephrochronological lattice for Denmark.

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