

Alone in a stony desert

We look at the barren landscape. Here, the ice sheet a few years ago was lying as a cold, white blanket over the terrain. Now the ice has receded hundreds of meters, and it had left a barren landscape with no vegetation as far as the eye can see. Everywhere we find only the bleak vision of rocks, stones, gravel and sand.

There seems to be no structure in this geology. A chaos without fixed lines and structures. The eye has difficulty in finding peace in this jumble of loose rocks and gravel. It will take many years before this area close to the ice sheet has been conquered by flora and fauna. Now it appears just like a big stony desert.

But hey, is it a stone that was moving over there? No, something moves on again. Right here in the middle of this inhospitable landscape we have spotted a tiny baby hare or leveret of the Arctic hare (polar rabbit). The leveret seems small, but has an impressive thick coat. Close by, I spot another leveret.

This is a rare experience here on the west coast of Greenland. The Arctic hare is shy, but these baby hares have done as they were told to. The mother has left them here, and they work well protected by their colour matches with the stones and the sand. The leverets are alone all day long and are only visited by their mother in the evening.

But maybe she is not coming back anymore? Already about ten days old these small leverets have to fend for themselves.



Leveret of an Arctic Hare, west of Kangerlussuaq, July 2010

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