



**Supplementary Figure S1: Scheme of the sampling procedure.** Six transects per island were distributed homogeneously across the accessible beachline of each of the two investigated islands and ten plots per transect positioned perpendicular to the drift line along the beach-inland transition zone. The first plot was positioned directly at the drift line (Br: beach reference plot). The eight plots spanning across the beach-inland transition zone were arranged in a way that the first pioneering plants of the supralittoral vegetation started to occur always between plot 4 (P4) and plot 5 (P5), resulting in four plots directing towards the beach (P1 to P4) and four plots directing into the inland habitat (P5 to P8). The last plot was positioned further in the insular interior, where shrubs and trees occurred (Ir: inland reference plot).