



Scientific name	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> bog
Common name	Black Bog-rush – Common Cottongrass bog
Community code	BG1C

Vegetation

Plant cover in this community tends to be quite low and is primarily provided by *Molinia caerulea* and *Schoenus nigricans* together with *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Rhynchospora alba* and *Eriophorum angustifolium*. *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica tetralix* form a sparse dwarf shrub layer. Also frequent are *Drosera rotundifolia*, tufts of *Eriophorum vaginatum* and shoots of *Potentilla erecta*. The bryophyte layer is weakly developed with patches of *Racomitrium lanuginosum* the most frequent component. Occasionally, there is some *Campylopus atrovirens*, *Pleurozia purpurea*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, and *Sphagnum papillosum*; the general scant cover of *Sphagnum* species is noteworthy.

Ecology

This is mainly a community of degraded peatlands in the lowlands which have been subjected to drainage, peat extraction, overgrazing or trampling. Soils are wet, ombrogenous, deep, acidic peats of low fertility.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

This assemblage represents bogs which are not as badly degraded as the BG1D *Eriophorum angustifolium* – *Campylopus introflexus* bog, so *Eriophorum angustifolium* does not dominate. Overall species cover and bryophyte cover in particular is lower, however, than in the intact *Schoenus* communities, HE4C *Molinia caerulea* – *Schoenus nigricans* bog/heath and BG2D *Erica tetralix* – *Schoenus nigricans* bog.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	210
Transitional:	36
Total:	246

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	44
1986-2000:	174
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	7
Total:	226

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	12
1986-2000:	10
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	25

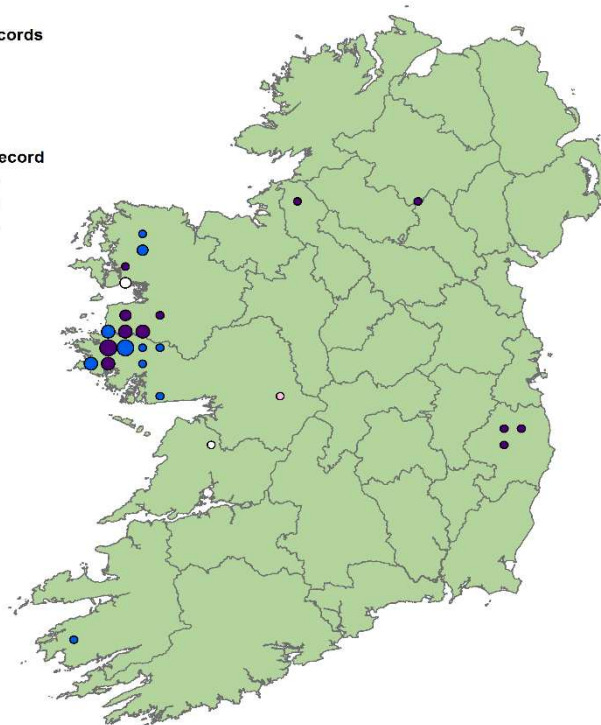
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	12
1986-2000:	15
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	2

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 195)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	V	2-(4)-5	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	V	+- (3)-5	<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	V	+- (3)-5	<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	V	+- (5)-8	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	IV	+- (2)-5	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	IV	+- (3)-7	<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	I	+- (2)-4
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	IV	+- (2)-5	<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	I	+- (3)-7
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	III	+- (3)-5	<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	III	+- (2)-3	<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	III	+- (2)-5	<i>Drosera anglica</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	III	+- (2)-3	<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	I	+- (2)-7
<i>Trichophorum cesp./germanicum</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Carex panicea</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Campylopus atrovirens</i>	II	+- (2)-5	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	I	+- (2)-2
<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	II	+- (2)-5	<i>Nardus stricta</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	II	+- (2)-5	<i>Sphagnum compactum</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	II	+- (2)-3	<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	I	1-(2)-4
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	II	+- (2)-3	<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	I	+- (2)-5	<i>Myrica gale</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	I	+- (2)-3	<i>Cladonia coccifera</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>	I	+- (2)-3	<i>Cephalozia bicuspidata</i>	I	+- (2)-3

Affinities

GHI: PB3 Lowland blanket bog / PB4 Cutover bog

ZM: OXY-01B Oxycocco – *Ericion tetralicis* Nordhagen et. Tx 1937

EUNIS: D1.21 Hyperoceanic low-altitude blanket bogs, typically with dominant *Trichophorum*

NVC: M17 *Scirpus cespitosus* – *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire (60.6%)

Annex I: 7130 Blanket bog (active)*

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.6 Reaction: 3.6 Wetness: 8.1 Fertility: 1.5 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

This is on average a very species-poor bog community (species/4 m² = 13.6, n = 34). Most examples are from blanket bog that can be deemed inactive (non-peat forming) due to the paucity of *Sphagnum* cover and hence qualify as the non-priority version of EU HD Annex I habitat 7130 Blanket bog (active)*. In the rare instances where there is reasonable cover of *Sphagnum*, the priority version of this habitat could be considered.

Management

In the lowlands, this vegetation is typically a result of turf-cutting, either by machine or by hand, and also by overgrazing and trampling from livestock (sheep or cattle). Other threats include afforestation and burning.

Key references

Perrin, P.M., Barron, S.J., Roche, J.R. & O’Hanrahan, B. (2014) Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 79. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: November 2017

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. BG1C *Schoenus nigricans* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog, Glenlaur, Sheeffry Hills, Mayo
(J. Conaghan, September 2010)



Photo 2. BG1C *Schoenus nigricans* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog, Derrinkee, near Cushlough, Mayo
(R. Hodd, October 2010)