



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> – <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> bog
<b>Common name</b>	Common Cottongrass – Heath Star-moss bog
<b>Community code</b>	BG1D

### Vegetation

*Eriophorum angustifolium* is the only constant species in this community, sometimes growing in mono-specific swards. There is frequently some patchy cover of *Calluna vulgaris* and occasionally some scrappy growth of *Molinia caerulea*, *Narthecium ossifragum* and *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum*. Overall cover of plants is typically low, with areas of bare or algal-covered peat common. On wetter peats *Juncus bulbosus* may occur, while on drier sections, the non-native moss *Campylopus introflexus* may colonise. Infrequently, *Juncus effusus* and *Polytrichum commune* may be abundant.

### Ecology

This is mainly a community of degraded peatlands which have been subjected to drainage, peat extraction, erosion, overgrazing, trampling or burning. It can occur in the uplands or lowlands. In upland blanket bog, this vegetation is characteristic of eroding blanket bog where it colonizes and, at least temporarily, stabilizes slumped areas of soft peat amongst the peat hags. In lowland bog, it occurs extensively in areas of industrial peat extraction both on the damaged peat surface and in drains. Soils are wet, ombrogenous, acidic peats which can be shallow or deep.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

### Similar communities

This is a distinctive community that is unlikely to generate too much confusion. The BG1C *Schoenus nigricans* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog community can also represent degraded peat vegetation, but both cover and diversity of species are much greater there as the disturbance is less pronounced.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	162
Transitional:	27
Total:	189

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	81
1986-2000:	99
1971-1985:	5
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	186

#### Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	12
1986-2000:	15
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	30

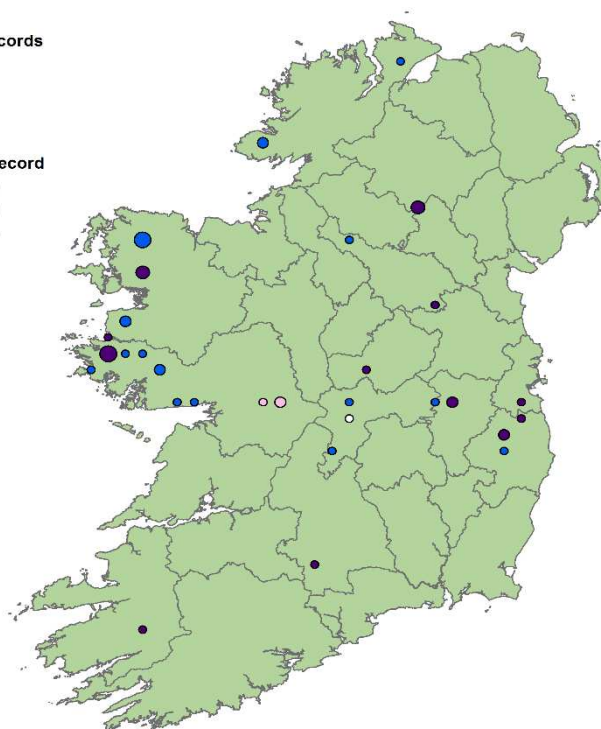
#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	12
1986-2000:	19
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	1

#### Number of records



#### Most recent record



### Synoptic table (n =125)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	III	+-(2)-4	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	I	+-(2)-5
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	I	+-(4)-5
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Trichophorum cesp./germanicum</i>	II	+-(3)-8	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	II	+-(3)-9	<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	I	+-(2)-4
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	II	+-(4)-9	<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	I	2-(5)-10	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	I	+-(3)-7	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	I	2-(2)-3	<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	I	+-(2)-4	<i>Carex echinata</i>	I	2-(2)-4
<i>Carex panicea</i>	I	+-(3)-7	<i>Aneura pinguis</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	I	+-(2)-4	<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>	I	3-(3)-7
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	I	+-(2)-5	<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	I	2-(3)-9	<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	I	+-(3)-5	<i>Myrica gale</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	I	2-(2)-5	<i>Kurzia pauciflora</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Campylopus atrovirens</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	I	+-(2)-5	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	I	+-(3)-5

#### Affinities

GHI: PB4 Cutover bog / PB5 Eroding blanket bog

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

EUNIS: D1.12 Damaged, inactive bogs /D1.24 Wet bare peat and peat hags on blanket bogs

NVC: M3 *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog pool community (41.2%)

Annex I:7130 Blanket bog (active)\* / 7120 Degraded raised bogs

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.7      Reaction: 3.5      Wetness: 8.3      Fertility: 1.4      Salinity: 0.0

#### Conservation value

This is a very species-poor degraded peatland community (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 10.4 n = 24). Most examples come from areas of blanket bog and qualify as the non-priority form of 7130 Blanket bog (active)\*. Potentially, this vegetation could also be found in areas ascribable to 7120 Degraded raised bogs.

#### Management

In the lowlands, this vegetation is typically a result of turf-cutting, either by machine or by hand. In the uplands, bogs where this vegetation occurs are usually used for extensive sheep grazing; the erosion associated with this community may be linked to overgrazing. This type of degradation can also be encountered along trampled hiking routes. 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. BG1D *Eriophorum angustifolium* – *Campylopus introflexus* bog, Dadreen, near Mweelrea, Mayo  
(B. O'Hanrahan, May 2009)



Photo 2. BG1D *Eriophorum angustifolium* – *Campylopus introflexus* bog, Tawnycrower, Sheeffry Hills, Mayo  
(M. Long/J. Conaghan, August 2010)