

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> – <i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i> bog
<b>Common name</b>	Hare's-tail Cottongrass – Cranberry bog
<b>Community code</b>	BG2A

### Vegetation

This bog vegetation is characterized by a mixture of several constant species. *Eriophorum vaginatum* tussocks occur alongside bushes of *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica tetralix* and tufts of *Eriophorum angustifolium*. Beneath these is a bryophyte layer dominated by *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Sphagnum capillifolium* and *Sphagnum recurvum* agg. and upon this is invariably found a trailing tangle of *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Frequently accompanying these species are *Molinia caerulea*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Sphagnum palustre* and *Andromeda polifolia*. Within the bryophyte layer, strands of *Odontoschisma sphagni* and *Calypogeia sphagnicola* may be found. *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Sphagnum papillosum* and *Sphagnum cuspidatum* are occasional, as is *Menyanthes trifoliata* in wetter areas.

### Ecology

This is a community of relatively intact raised bogs, occurring on deep, acidic, oligotrophic, ombrogenous peats but with some degree of groundwater flushing. It can form the transition between open bog and bog woodland.

### Sub-communities

This community has two sub-communities described. More strongly flushed areas are covered by the *Menyanthes trifoliata* – *Carex rostrata* sub-community (BG2Ai) in which both *Molinia caerulea* and *Sphagnum recurvum* agg. are very frequent. Less flushed situations are encompassed by the *Andromeda polifolia* – *Sphagnum magellanicum* sub-community (BG2Aii) in which *Sphagnum papillosum* may often be found.

### Similar communities

From the other main raised bog community, BG2B *Erica tetralix* – *Andromeda polifolia* bog, this community differs in displaying higher frequencies and abundances of both *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and *Aulacomnium palustre*. *Andromeda polifolia* is rarely encountered outside of these two communities.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	72
Transitional:	8
Total:	80

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	58
1986-2000:	21
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	80

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

2001-2015:	4
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	7

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

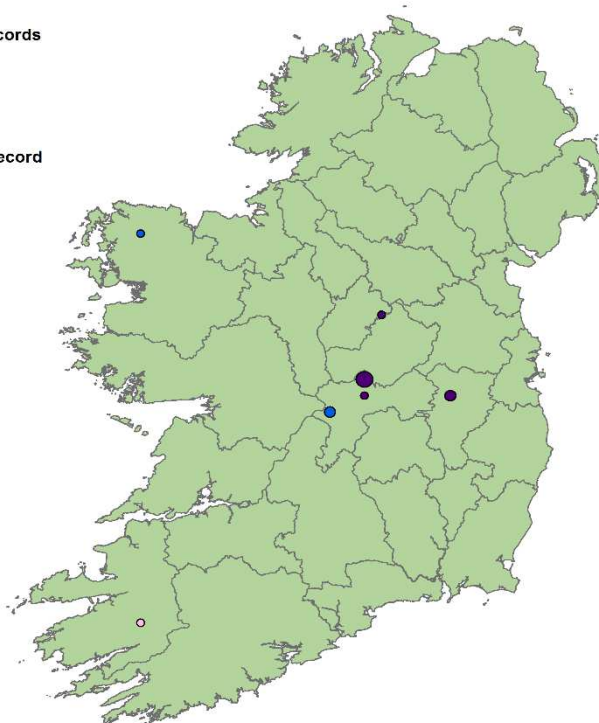
2001-2015:	4
1986-2000:	3
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	0

#### Number of records

- 1-3
- 4-10
- 11-25
- 26+

#### Most recent record

- 2001-2015
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



### Synoptic table (n = 62)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	V	2-(3)-7	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	II	2-(3)-8
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	V	3-(4)-9	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	II	2-(3)-7
<i>Aulacomnium palustre</i>	V	3-(4)-9	<i>Mylia anomala</i>	II	2-(3)-4
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	V	3-(4)-7	<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>	IV	2-(4)-9	<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	I	2-(3)-8
<i>Sphagnum recurvum</i> agg.	IV	3-(4)-9	<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	I	3-(4)-9
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	IV	2-(3)-9	<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>	I	3-(3)-7
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Myrica gale</i>	I	3-(4)-8
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	III	3-(3)-7	<i>Calypogeia fissa</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	III	2-(3)-3	<i>Polytrichum strictum</i>	I	3-(4)-5
<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	III	2-(6)-9	<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	I	3-(3)-8
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	III	1-(3)-3	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Calypogeia sphagnicola</i>	III	2-(3)-4	<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>	I	3-(4)-4
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Cephalozia connivens</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	II	3-(4)-5	<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Sphagnum magellanicum</i>	II	3-(4)-9	<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	II	3-(4)-8	<i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	I	3-(3)-4
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	II	2-(4)-7	<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	I	2-(3)-4
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	II	3-(3)-3	<i>Cephalozia bicuspidata</i>	I	1-(2)-3

#### Affinities

GHI: PB1 Raised bog

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

EUNIS: D1.11 Active, relatively undamaged raised bogs

NVC: M18a *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum papillosum* raised and blanket mire *Sphagnum magellanicum* – *Andromeda polifolia* sub-community (69.0%)

Annex I:7110 Raised bog (active)\*

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.2      Reaction: 2.2      Wetness: 7.8      Fertility: 1.7      Salinity: 0.0

#### Conservation value

All examples of this community qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 7120 Raised bog (active)\*. This is on average a moderately species-poor community (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 16.9, n = 19), but supports several specialists.

#### Management

The main threat to the raised bogs supporting this vegetation is turf-cutting, either by hand or machine, and associated drainage. Some sites have also suffered from afforestation. Locally, action has been taken to address these impacts and some sites are managed strictly for conservation.

#### Key references

Fernández, F., Connolly K., Crowley W., Denyer J., Duff K. & Smith G. (2014) Raised Bog Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2013. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 81. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. BG2A *Eriophorum vaginatum* - *Vaccinium oxycoccos* bog, Clara Bog, Offaly  
(G. Smith, October 2015)