



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> bog
<b>Common name</b>	Cross-leaved Heath – Black Bog-rush bog
<b>Community code</b>	BG2D

### Vegetation

The bulk of the field layer in this rather diverse community is composed of a mixture of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Eriophorum angustifolium* and *Schoenus nigricans*. Other vascular plant constants are *Erica tetralix*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* and *Rhynchospora alba*. There is good cover of *Sphagnum* species in the bryophyte layer with *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *Sphagnum tenellum* and *Sphagnum papillosum* all being constants, alongside *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Pleurozia purpurea*. Lichens are also characteristic of this vegetation with *Cladonia uncialis* and *Cladonia portentosa* usually found here.

### Ecology

This is a community of lowland blanket bogs (mean altitude = 170 m,  $n = 47$ ) occurring on deep, acidic and wet peat soils of poor fertility.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

### Similar communities

*Schoenus nigricans* is a constant species in two other communities. The BG1C *Schoenus nigricans* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog community differs in being somewhat degraded with a sparser field layer and significantly less *Sphagnum*. In the HE4C *Molinia caerulea* – *Schoenus nigricans* bog/heath, the two titular species dominate the field layer.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	364
Transitional:	49
Total:	413

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	28
1986-2000:	152
1971-1985:	64
Pre-1971:	19
Total:	263

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

2001-2015:	20
1986-2000:	9
1971-1985:	7
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	37

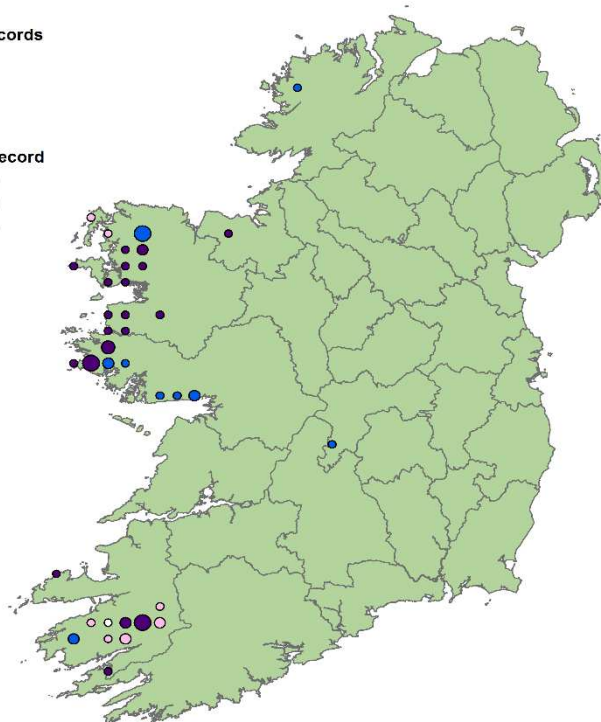
#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	20
1986-2000:	15
1971-1985:	11
Pre-1971:	5

#### Number of records



#### Most recent record



**Synoptic table (n = 274)**

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	V	3-(5)-8	<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	III	+-(3)-7
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	III	+-(2)-3
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	V	2-(3)-8	<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	III	2-(3)-7
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	V	1-(5)-9	<i>Campylopus atrovirens</i>	III	+-(3)-8
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	V	+-(3)-5	<i>Kurzia pauciflora</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	V	+-(3)-8	<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	II	+-(3)-7
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	V	1-(5)-9	<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	II	2-(3)-7
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	V	2-(3)-8	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	V	2-(3)-8	<i>Mylia anomala</i>	II	2-(2)-7
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>	IV	+-(3)-7	<i>Sphagnum magellanicum</i>	II	2-(3)-7
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	IV	+-(3)-5	<i>Myrica gale</i>	II	2-(4)-7
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	IV	+-(3)-7	<i>Cephalozia connivens</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	IV	+-(3)-8	<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	IV	1-(3)-7	<i>Cephalozia bicuspidata</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	IV	+-(3)-7	<i>Carex panicea</i>	I	2-(3)-8
<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	IV	+-(3)-7	<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	IV	+-(3)-8	<i>Drosera anglica</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Trichophorum cesp./germanicum</i>	IV	+-(5)-8	<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	I	+-(3)-3
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	III	2-(3)-8	<i>Sphagnum compactum</i>	I	2-(4)-7

**Affinities**

GHI: PB3 Lowland blanket bog

ZM: OXY-01B Oxycocco – *Erica tetralix* Nordhagen et. Tx 1937

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

NVC: M17a *Scirpus cespitosus* – *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire *Drosera rotundifolia* – *Sphagnum* sub-community (73.9%)

Annex I:7130 Blanket bog (active)\*

**Proxy environmental data**

Light: 7.1      Reaction: 2.7      Wetness: 7.2      Fertility: 1.4      Salinity: 0.0

**Conservation value**

This is a moderately species-rich bog community (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 21.3, n = 92), which corresponds closely with EU HD Annex I habitat 7130 Blanket bog (active)\*.

**Management**

These bogs are often used for turf-cutting, either by hand or machine. They may also be used as rough grazing land, typically for sheep, which can lead to overgrazing. The other main threats are erosion, burning and afforestation.

**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. BG2D *Erica tetralix* – *Schoenus nigricans* bog, Tonatleva, Teevnabinnia, Mayo  
(J. Fuller/F. Devaney, October 2010)



Photo 2. BG2D *Erica tetralix* – *Schoenus nigricans* bog, Srahwee, near Cregganbaun, Mayo  
(J. Denyer/K. McNutt/F. Devaney, October 2010)