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|------------------------|---|
| Scientific name | <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> bog/heath |
| Common name | Deergrass – Common Cottongrass bog/heath |
| Community code | BG2F |

Vegetation

Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum is the main component of this community, forming large wefts of mottled brown stems later in the year. *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica tetralix* form the patchy dwarf shrub layer. Other constants are *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Potentilla erecta* and *Narthecium ossifragum*. In the bryophyte layer, cushions of *Racomitrium lanuginosum* are the most regular feature but it tends not to dominate and is frequently joined by *Sphagnum tenellum*, *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Pleurozia purpurea*. Further investigation amongst these plants will often yield some diminutive strands of *Odontoschisma sphagni* and *Diplophyllum albicans*. Several other species of sphagna are occasional. *Cladonia uncialis* is frequent but provides sparse cover.

Ecology

This is a community of upland peatlands (mean altitude 370 m, $n = 112$) occurring on wet, acidic and infertile peats. Mainly these are the deep, ombrogenous peats of upland blanket bog, but this vegetation also occurs on shallower soils as wet heath.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

In no other community does *Trichophorum* attain such dominance. In the HE4A *Molinia caerulea* – *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* bog/heath, *Molinia caerulea* tends to be more abundant than in the present community and *Eriophorum angustifolium* is much less frequent. In the HE2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* heath, *Calluna vulgaris* is more abundant and there is less cover of *Sphagnum* species.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Clearly assigned: | 247 |
| Transitional: | 30 |
| Total: | 277 |

Number of records (mapped)

| | |
|------------|-----|
| 2001-2015: | 175 |
| 1986-2000: | 66 |
| 1971-1985: | 1 |
| Pre-1971: | 9 |
| Total: | 251 |

Number of hectads (most recent records)

| | |
|------------|----|
| 2001-2015: | 39 |
| 1986-2000: | 14 |
| 1971-1985: | 0 |
| Pre-1971: | 1 |
| Total: | 54 |

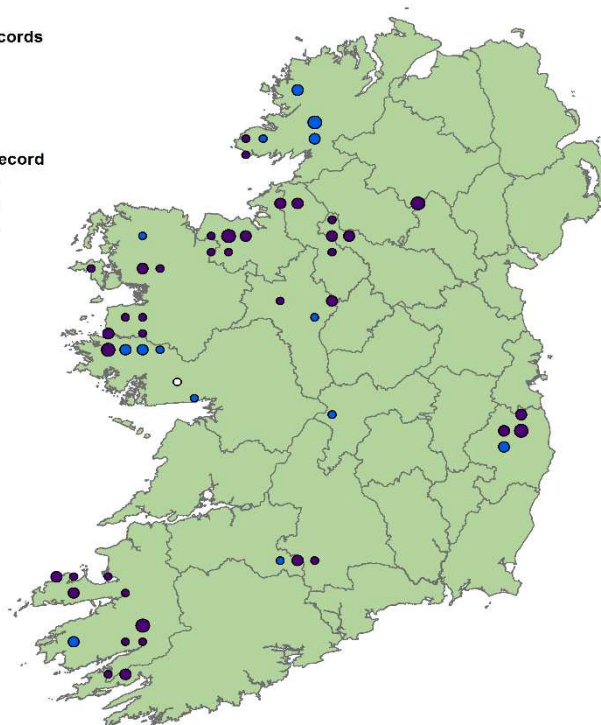
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

| | |
|------------|----|
| 2001-2015: | 39 |
| 1986-2000: | 18 |
| 1971-1985: | 1 |
| Pre-1971: | 3 |

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 203)

| Species | Frequency | Cover | Species | Frequency | Cover |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| | (from I-V) | min (med) max | | (from I-V) | min (med) max |
| <i>Trichophorum cesp./germanicum</i> | V | 3-(7)-10 | <i>Campylopus atrovirens</i> | II | +-(2)-5 |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> | V | +-(4)-9 | <i>Erica cinerea</i> | II | +-(3)-5 |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | V | +-(4)-9 | <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i> | II | +-(3)-7 |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> | V | +-(3)-8 | <i>Carex panicea</i> | II | +-(2)-7 |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i> | IV | +-(3)-5 | <i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i> | II | +-(2)-4 |
| <i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i> | IV | +-(4)-9 | <i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg. | II | +-(3)-5 |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i> | IV | +-(4)-7 | <i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i> | II | +-(1)-3 |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i> | IV | +-(3)-7 | <i>Sphagnum subnitens</i> | II | +-(3)-8 |
| <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i> | III | +-(2)-5 | <i>Nardus stricta</i> | I | +-(3)-5 |
| <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i> | III | +-(3)-7 | <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> | I | 1-(3)-7 |
| <i>Pleurozia purpurea</i> | III | +-(3)-6 | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | I | +-(1)-6 |
| <i>Cladonia uncialis</i> | III | +-(2)-5 | <i>Sphagnum compactum</i> | I | +-(3)-5 |
| <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i> | III | +-(3)-8 | <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> | I | +-(1)-5 |
| <i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i> | III | +-(1)-3 | <i>Scapania gracilis</i> | I | +-(1)-3 |
| <i>Diplophyllum albicans</i> | III | +-(1)-4 | <i>Mylia taylorii</i> | I | +-(1)-3 |
| <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> | II | +-(3)-7 | <i>Cephalozia bicuspidata</i> | I | +-(+)-3 |
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> | II | +-(3)-8 | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | I | +-(2)-3 |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa</i> | II | +-(3)-6 | <i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i> | I | +-(1)-2 |
| <i>Drosera rotundifolia</i> | II | +-(1)-3 | <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> | I | +-(3)-6 |
| <i>Campylopus flexuosus</i> | II | +-(1)-4 | <i>Sphagnum palustre</i> | I | +-(2)-7 |

Affinities

GHI: PB2 Upland blanket bog / HH3 Wet heath

ZM: OXY-01B Oxycocco – Ericion tetralicis Nordhagen et. Tx 1937 / OXY-01A Ericion tetralicis Schwickerath 1933

EUNIS: D1.21 Hyperoceanic low-altitude blanket bogs, typically with dominant *Trichophorum* / F4.11 Northern wet heaths

NVC: M17 *Scirpus cespitosus* – *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire (74.6%)

Annex I: 7130 Blanket bog (active)* / 4010 Wet heath

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.4 Reaction: 2.2 Wetness: 7.3 Fertility: 1.3 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

This is on average a community of middling diversity (species/4 m² = 19.1, n = 140). Most vegetation samples assigned to this community qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 7130 Blanket bog (active)*, but some examples from shallower soils could be regarded as habitat 4010 Wet heath.

Management

These bogs are used as rough grazing land, typically for sheep, and often occur within commonages. The main threats are overgrazing, erosion, burning and afforestation. Turf-cutting and drainage may also occur on deeper peat.

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. BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog/heath, Clohane, Mount Brandon, Kerry (J. Roche, July 2011)



Photo 2. BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog/heath, Ballynasare-Mountain, near Annascaul, Kerry (P. Perrin, August 2011)