

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland
<b>Common name</b>	Deergrass – Common Cottongrass peatland
<b>Community code</b>	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*, *Sphagnum papillosum*, *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.

### Ecology

This is a community of upland peatlands (mean altitude 367 m,  $n = 125$ ; mean slope = 5.3°,  $n = 116$ ) 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. Mean extent of bare peat = 5.2%,  $n = 127$ .

### 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* peatland, *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:	248
Transitional:	33
Total:	281

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	187
1986-2000:	62
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	9
Total:	260

#### Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	42
1986-2000:	15
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	59

#### Number of hectads (records in each time period)

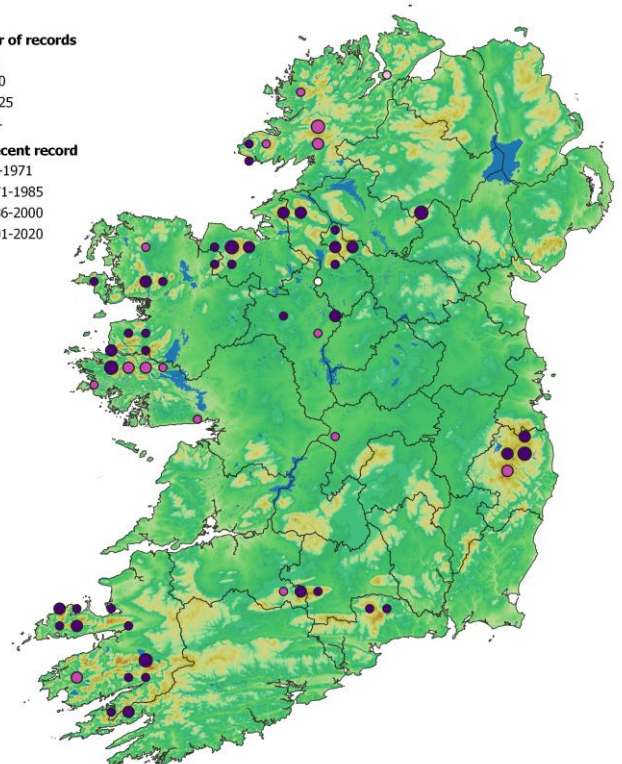
2001-2020:	42
1986-2000:	20
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	3

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

- pre-1971
- 1971-1985
- 1986-2000
- 2001-2020



**Synoptic table (n = 210)**

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>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	II	+-(-3)-7
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	V	+-(-4)-9	<i>Campylopus atrovirens</i>	II	+-(-2)-5
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	V	+-(-4)-9	<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	II	+-(-3)-5
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	V	+-(-3)-8	<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	II	+-(-3)-8
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	IV	+-(-3)-5	<i>Carex panicea</i>	II	+-(-2)-7
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	IV	+-(-4)-8	<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	II	+-(-2)-4
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	IV	+-(-4)-8	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	II	+-(-1)-3
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	IV	+-(-2)-7	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	II	+-(-3)-5
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	III	+-(-3)-7	<i>Nardus stricta</i>	I	+-(-3)-5
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	III	+-(-2)-5	<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	I	1-(-3)-7
<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	III	+-(-3)-6	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	I	+-(-1)-6
<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>Cephalozia bicuspidata</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	III	+-(-3)-7	<i>Mylia taylorii</i>	I	+-(-1)-2
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	III	+-(-3)-8	<i>Sphagnum compactum</i>	I	+-(-3)-5
<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	II	+-(-2)-5	<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	I	+-(-2)-7
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	II	+-(-1)-3	<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>	I	+-(-2)-3
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	II	+-(-3)-6	<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>	I	+-(-1)-2
<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	II	+-(-1)-4	<i>Kurzia pauciflora</i>	I	+-(-1)-3

**Affinities**

GHI: HH3 Wet heath / PB2 Upland blanket bog

ZM: PB01A Ericion tetralicis Schwickerath 1933 / PB01B Oxycocco-Ericion tetralicis Nordhagen ex Tx. 1937

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 (76.4%)

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

**Proxy environmental data**

Light: 7.6 Reaction: 2.3 Wetness: 7.5 Fertility: 1.3 Salinity: 0.0

**Conservation value**

This is on average a species-rich community (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 19.2, n = 152). 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, Dublin.

Kirkpatrick, A.H. (1988) A vegetation survey of heath and moorland in Northern Ireland and Donegal. (Ph.D. thesis). New University of Ulster.

Wolfe-Murphy, S. A., Murphy, C. (2002). Ecological survey of the Slieve Beagh/Eshbrack Bog area, County Monaghan. (unpublished). Truagh Development Association, Co. Monaghan.

**Synopsis version:** V2.1

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**Synopsis author(s):** P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland, Cloghane, Mount Brandon, Kerry (J. Roche, July 2011)



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