

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Scientific name | <i>Racomitrium fasciculare</i> – <i>Festuca vivipara</i> scree community |
| Common name | Green Mountain Fringe-moss – Viviparous Fescue scree community |
| Community code | RH2B |

Vegetation

The main components of this rocky habitat community are mostly bryophytes and grasses. *Festuca vivipara*, *Agrostis capillaris* and *Galium saxatile* are the constant vascular plants, with tufts of *Anthoxanthum odoratum* frequent. Crevices in the rocks occasionally support rosettes of *Saxifraga spathularis* and in shady, sheltered spots *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* may be found. The bryophyte layer comprises mostly hoary patches of *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and the greener patches of *Racomitrium fasciculare*, but also usually includes *Polytrichum commune* and *Breutelia chrysocoma* and frequently *Diplophyllum albicans* and *Pleurozia purpurea*.

Ecology

This is a community of sparsely vegetated siliceous scree slopes of the high uplands (mean extent of bare rock = 70.1%, $n = 98$; mean altitude = 651 m, $n = 98$; mean slope = 52.3°, $n = 98$). Soils, where they accumulate, are skeletal (mean soil depth = 1.0 cm, $n = 98$). Conditions are acidic, moist and infertile.

Sub-communities

No formal sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

Racomitrium fasciculare and *Breutelia chrysocoma* are much less frequent in the RH2C *Racomitrium lanuginosum* – *Hypnum jutlandicum* scree community, which in general has more cover from dry heath species and less cover from grass species than RH2B.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Clearly assigned: | 98 |
| Transitional: | 3 |
| Total: | 101 |

Number of records (mapped)

| | |
|------------|-----|
| 2001-2020: | 101 |
| 1986-2000: | 0 |
| 1971-1985: | 0 |
| Pre-1971: | 0 |
| Total: | 101 |

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

| | |
|------------|---|
| 2001-2020: | 5 |
| 1986-2000: | 0 |
| 1971-1985: | 0 |
| Pre-1971: | 0 |
| Total: | 5 |

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

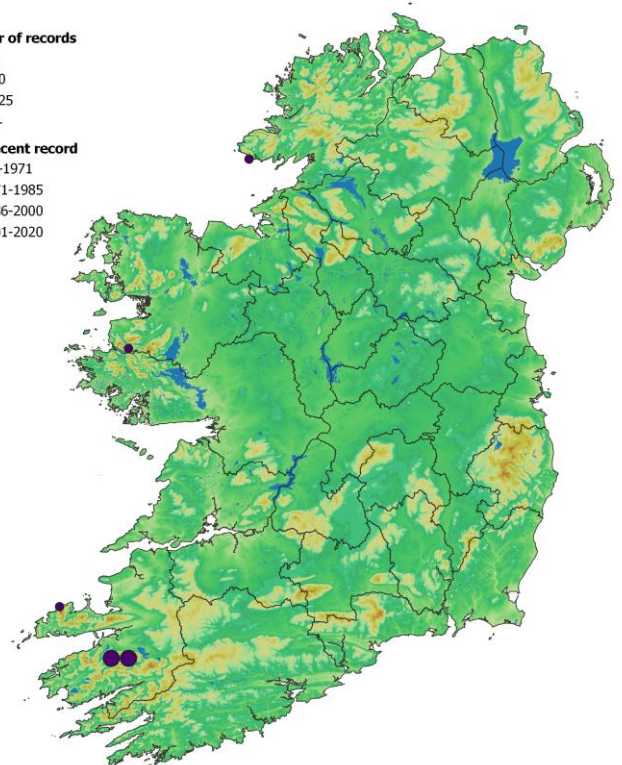
| | |
|------------|---|
| 2001-2020: | 5 |
| 1986-2000: | 0 |
| 1971-1985: | 0 |
| Pre-1971: | 0 |

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 98)

| Species | Frequency (from I-V) | Cover min (med) max | Species | Frequency (from I-V) | Cover min (med) max |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i> | V | 1-(3)-7 | <i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> | I | 2-(2)-2 |
| <i>Festuca vivipara</i> | V | 2-(3)-5 | <i>Oxalis acetosella</i> | I | 1-(3)-3 |
| <i>Racomitrium fasciculare</i> | V | 1-(2)-4 | <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> | V | 2-(4)-5 | <i>Scapania gracilis</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Polytrichum commune</i> | IV | 2-(3)-5 | <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | IV | 1-(2)-5 | <i>Huperzia selago</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Breutelia chrysocoma</i> | IV | 1-(3)-4 | <i>Jasione montana</i> | I | 2-(2)-2 |
| <i>Galium saxatile</i> | IV | 2-(3)-4 | <i>Sphagnum palustre</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Diplophyllum albicans</i> | III | 2-(2)-4 | <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> | III | 2-(3)-5 | <i>Carex pilulifera</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Pleurozia purpurea</i> | III | 2-(3)-3 | <i>Nardus stricta</i> | I | 3-(4)-4 |
| <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> | II | 2-(2)-3 | <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i> | I | 2-(2)-2 |
| <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> | II | 2-(3)-5 | <i>Luzula sylvatica</i> | I | 2-(2)-4 |
| <i>Saxifraga spathularis</i> | II | 2-(3)-4 | <i>Marsupella emarginata</i> | I | 2-(2)-2 |
| <i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i> | II | 2-(2)-3 | <i>Tritomaria quinquedentata</i> | I | 2-(2)-2 |
| <i>Rhytiadelphus loreus</i> | II | +-(2)-4 | <i>Juncus bulbosus</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | I | 2-(3)-4 | <i>Oligotrichum hercynicum</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Herbertus aduncus</i> | I | 2-(3)-4 | <i>Pellia epiphylla</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |
| <i>Pogonatum urnigerum</i> | I | +-(3)-4 | <i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg. | I | 2-(2)-2 |
| <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> | I | 2-(3)-3 | <i>Viola riviniana/reichenbachiana</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 |

Affinities

GHI: ER3 Siliceous scree and loose rock

ZM: CT01B Nardo-Caricion rigidae Nordhagen 1943 / SE01F Racomitrium lanuginosi von Krusenstjerna 1945

EUNIS: H2.1 Cold siliceous screes

NVC: U16b *Luzula sylvatica*-*Vaccinium myrtillus* tall-herb community *Anthoxanthum odoratum*-*Festuca ovina* sub-community (38.1%)

Annex I:8110 Siliceous scree

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.7 Reaction: 3.0 Wetness: 5.4 Fertility: 2.3 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

Examples of this community qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 8110 Siliceous scree. Species/4 m² = 13.8, n = 98.

Management

Some more accessible areas of this vegetation may be sheep-grazed but it is essentially unmanaged.

Key references

Hodd, R.L. (2007) A study of the vegetation of the scree slopes of the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, Co. Kerry. (B.Sc. thesis). National University of Ireland Galway.

Synopsis version: V2.1

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. RH2B *Racomitrium fasciculare* – *Festuca vivipara* scree community, Tawnyinlough, Ben Creggan, Mayo
(P. Perrin/R. Hodd, October 2010)



Photo 2. RH2B *Racomitrium fasciculare* – *Festuca vivipara* scree community, Laghta Oughter, Sheeffry Hills, Mayo
(P. Perrin/J. Denyer, September 2010)