



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i> – <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i> scree community
<b>Common name</b>	Woolly Fringe-moss – Heath Plait-moss scree community
<b>Community code</b>	RH2C

### Vegetation

This is essentially a bryophyte community with little cover provided by vascular plants. There are three constant species, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, *Diplophyllum albicans* and *Hypnum jutlandicum*. Of these, *Racomitrium lanuginosum* tends to be the most abundant, often forming large patches across the rocks. *Scapania gracilis*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *Campylopus flexuosus*, *Hylocomium splendens* and *Isoetecium myosuroides* are all frequently encountered. *Vaccinium myrtillus* is the only frequent vascular plant, but *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea* are both occasional; in association with some of the more robust pleurocarpous mosses, these species can add a heathy element to the vegetation. Between the larger rocks, *Saxifraga spathularis*, *Dryopteris dilatata* and *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* are also occasional.

### Ecology

This is a community of sparsely vegetated siliceous scree in the uplands (mean bare rock cover = 80%,  $n = 40$ ; mean altitude = 520 m,  $n = 40$ ; mean slope = 34°,  $n = 40$ ). Soils, where they accumulate, are skeletal (mean soil depth = 0.7 cm,  $n = 40$ ). Conditions are acidic, fairly dry and infertile.

### Sub-communities

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

### Similar communities

In the RH2B *Racomitrium fasciculare* – *Festuca vivipara* scree community, *Racomitrium fasciculare* and *Breutelia chrysocoma* are much more frequent and grass species are more prevalent.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	40
Transitional:	2
Total:	42

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	42
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	42

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

2001-2015:	20
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	20

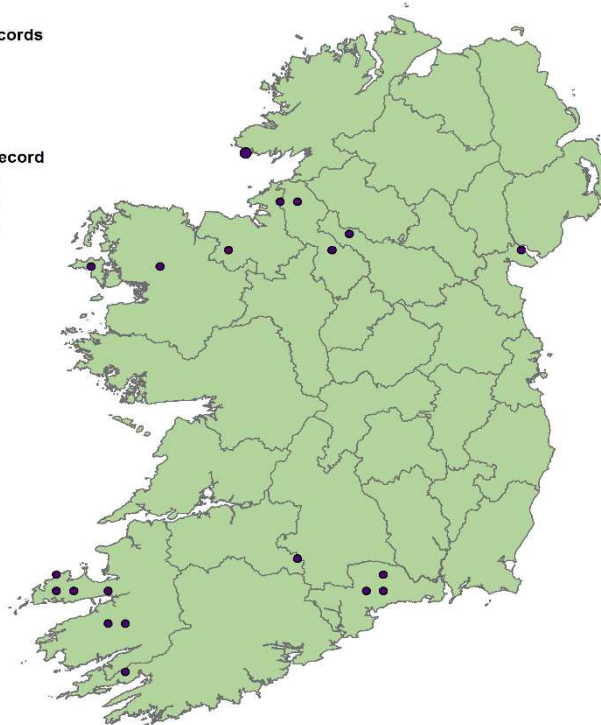
#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	20
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	20

#### Number of records



#### Most recent record



### Synoptic table (n = 40)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	V	3-(4)-8	<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i>	II	3-(3)-3
<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	V	+-(2)-4	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	IV	+-(1)-3	<i>Racomitrium heterostichum</i>	II	+-(+)-3
<i>Scapania gracilis</i>	III	+-(1)-3	<i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	II	+-(1)-3
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	III	+-(2)-3	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	III	+-(1)-3	<i>Lophozia ventricosa</i>	I	+-(+)-1
<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	III	+-(+)-3	<i>Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans</i>	I	+-(1)-3
<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	III	+-(2)-3	<i>Cladonia subcervicornis</i>	I	+-(+)-2
<i>Isothecium myosuroides</i>	III	+-(1)-3	<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i>	II	+-(2)-3	<i>Campylopus atrovirens</i>	I	1-(1)-3
<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	II	+-(1)-3	<i>Herbertus aduncus</i>	I	+-(2)-4
<i>Saxifraga spathularis</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Stereocaulon vesuvianum</i>	I	+-(1)-4
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	II	+-(2)-4	<i>Gymnomitrium crenulatum</i>	I	+-(+)-2
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	II	1-(2)-4	<i>Racomitrium fasciculare</i>	I	+-(1)-2
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	II	+-(1)-3	<i>Polytrichum alpinum</i>	I	+-(2)-4
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	II	1-(3)-4	<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	I	+-(1)-3
<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	II	+-(1)-2	<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	II	+-(2)-3	<i>Plagiochila spinulosa</i>	I	+-(1)-1
<i>Huperzia selago</i>	II	+-(1)-3	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	I	+-(+)-1

#### Affinities

GHI: ER3 Siliceous scree and loose rock

ZM: THL-06B Androsacion alpinae Br.-Bl. et Jenny 1926

EUNIS: H2.1 Cold siliceous screes

NVC: U5e *Nardus stricta* – *Galium saxatile* grassland *Racomitrium lanuginosum* sub-community (44.6%) [also, U21 *Cryptogramma crispa* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* community (43.5%)]

Annex I:8220 Siliceous scree

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.3      Reaction: 2.4      Wetness: 4.9      Fertility: 1.6      Salinity: 0.0

#### Conservation value

Examples of this community qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 8110 Siliceous scree.

#### Management

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

#### 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. RH2C *Racomitrium lanuginosum* – *Campylopus flexuosus* scree community, Moneynaboola, Galtee Mountains, Tipperary (J. Fuller/P. Perrin, September 2011)



Photo 2. RH2C *Racomitrium lanuginosum* – *Campylopus flexuosus* scree community, Derreen, Slieve Anierin, Leitrim (R. Hodd, September 2012)