

Scientific name	<i>Carex panicea</i> – <i>Carex viridula</i> fen
Common name	Carnation Sedge – Yellow Sedge fen
Community code	FE1C

Vegetation

This variable community brings together a range of small-sedge dominated vegetation types. The main sedges are *Carex viridula* and *Carex panicea*, which are constant and the combination of their glaucous and bright green sedge leaves is an indicator of this habitat. These are frequently accompanied by *Carex echinata* and occasionally by *Carex nigra*, *Carex hostiana*, *Carex pulicaris* or *Carex dioica*. Other constants are *Molinia caerulea*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Juncus bulbosus* and *Ranunculus flammula*. Frequent vascular plants are *Eleocharis multicaulis*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Juncus articulatus* and *Potamogeton polygonifolius*. Occasionally, the conspicuous pale-leaved rosettes of *Pinguicula vulgaris* will be seen. There is often, but not always, a 'brown moss' presence in the bryophyte layer, most often in the shape of *Campylium stellatum*, and somewhat less often in the guise of *Aneura pinguis*, *Drepanocladus cossonii/revolvens*, *Scorpidium scorpioides*, *Fissidens adianthoides* or *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*. *Sphagnum subsecundum* agg. is occasionally present and may be abundant.

Ecology

This community usually occurs in the uplands on grassy or heathy slopes where there is strong flushing over nutrient-poor thin peats or mineral soils, but variants also occur in the lowlands in association with other fen types.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

From the other communities in this group, community FE1C differs principally in that *Schoenus nigricans* is scarce here.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	195
Transitional:	60
Total:	255

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	59
1986-2000:	114
1971-1985:	50
Pre-1971:	13
Total:	236

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	34
1986-2000:	24
1971-1985:	10
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	69

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

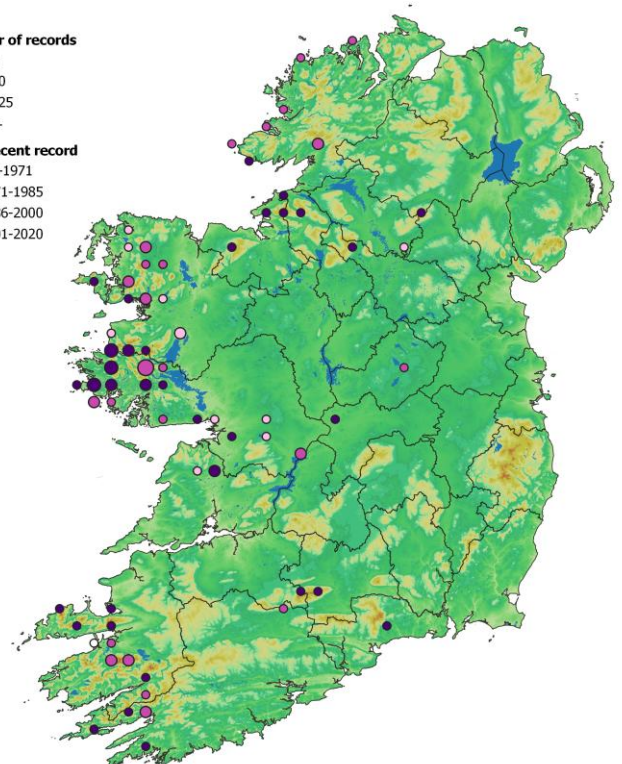
2001-2020:	34
1986-2000:	31
1971-1985:	16
Pre-1971:	7

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 174)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Carex viridula</i>	V	2-(4)-9	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Carex panicea</i>	V	2-(5)-8	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	II	1-(3)-7
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	V	1-(3)-8	<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	II	1-(3)-9
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	V	2-(4)-8	<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	II	+-(3)-5
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	IV	+-(3)-8	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>	II	2-(5)-8
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	IV	+-(3)-7	<i>Carex dioica</i>	II	1-(3)-5
<i>Carex echinata</i>	III	+-(3)-8	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	II	+-(2)-7
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	III	1-(5)-8	<i>Myrica gale</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Campyllum stellatum</i>	III	+-(3)-8	<i>Scorpidium scorpioides</i>	II	+-(3)-9
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	III	+-(3)-7	<i>Nardus stricta</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	III	+-(2)-5	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	II	+-(2)-7
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	III	+-(3)-6	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	II	1-(2)-3
<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	III	2-(5)-8	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	II	1-(2)-7
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	III	+-(3)-7	<i>Fissidens adianthoides</i>	II	+-(2)-6
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	II	1-(3)-7	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	II	+-(2)-4
<i>Carex nigra</i>	II	+-(3)-8	<i>Bryum pseudotriquetrum</i>	I	+-(2)-5
<i>Aneura pinguis</i>	II	+-(2)-3	<i>Hypericum elodes</i>	I	1-(4)-8
<i>Drepanocladus cossonii/revolvens</i>	II	1-(4)-9	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Carex hostiana</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	I	1-(2)-5
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	I	1-(3)-5

Affinities

GHI: PF1 Rich fen and flush / PF2 Poor fen and flush

ZM: PA01A Caricion davallianae Klika 1934

EUNIS: D4.151 British dioecious-yellow sedge fens

NVC: M10a *Carex dioica*-*Pinguicula vulgaris* mire *Carex demissa*-*Juncus bulbosus/kochii* sub-community (60.3%)

Annex I:7230 Alkaline fens

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.7 Reaction: 4.6 Wetness: 8.5 Fertility: 2.2 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

This is species-rich community (species/4 m² = 25.1, n = 106). Examples which support 'brown mosses' correspond with EU HD Annex I habitat 7230 Alkaline fens.

Management

Flushes in the uplands are in areas usually managed by extensive sheep grazing, which may impact on this community. Stands in the lowlands are vulnerable to drainage, infilling, reclamation and eutrophication.

Key references

Bleasdale, A. (1995) The vegetation and ecology of the Connemara uplands, with particular reference to sheep grazing. (Ph.D. thesis). National University of Ireland Galway.

O'Criodain, C. (1988) Parvocaricetea in Ireland (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

van Groenendael, J., Hochstenbach, S.M.H., van Mansfeld, M., Roozen, A.J.M., Westhoff, V. (1982) The influence of the sea on the vegetation of lakes in southwest Connemara. *Journal of Life Sciences - Royal Dublin Society* 3, 221-242.

Synopsis version: V2.1

Synopsis date: March 2025

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. FE1C *Carex panicea* – *Carex viridula* fen, Glenummera, Sheeffry Hills, Mayo (J. Conaghan, September 2010)



Photo 2. FE1C *Carex panicea* – *Carex viridula* fen, Lisdargan, Croaghskearda, Kerry (P. Perrin, August 2011)