



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> – <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> marsh/fen
<b>Common name</b>	Common Spike-rush – Creeping Bent marsh/fen
<b>Community code</b>	FE3C

### Vegetation

This marshy vegetation type is characterised by a mixture of several constant herbaceous species: *Eleocharis palustris*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Apium nodiflorum* and *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* agg. *Juncus articulatus* is frequent while less often there is some presence of *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Persicaria amphibia*, *Myosotis laxa*, *Galium palustre*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Equisetum fluviatile* or *Apium inundatum*. Where there is some standing water, *Hippuris vulgaris*, *Ranunculus trichophyllus* and *Lemna minor* may be found. *Calliergonella cuspidata* is occasional and is the only bryophyte likely to be seen,

### Ecology

This wetland community is found in fairly base-rich, mildly eutrophic situations. Often, there is a fluctuating water table, but these areas are unlikely to totally dry out and may retain standing water. It has predominantly been recorded from bottom of turlough basins and dune-slacks in coastal systems, but also from lakes and lagoon margins.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

### Similar communities

*Eleocharis palustris* can be a significant plant in the FW3G *Equisetum fluviatile* – *Eleocharis palustris* swamp, but that is much less diverse community in which *Equisetum fluviatile* is the mainstay. There are also some similarities with the FW2E *Apium nodiflorum* – *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* agg. aquatic community, but *Eleocharis palustris* is seldom found there.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	190
Transitional:	35
Total:	225

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	7
1986-2000:	138
1971-1985:	75
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	222

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

2001-2015:	6
1986-2000:	31
1971-1985:	10
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	48

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

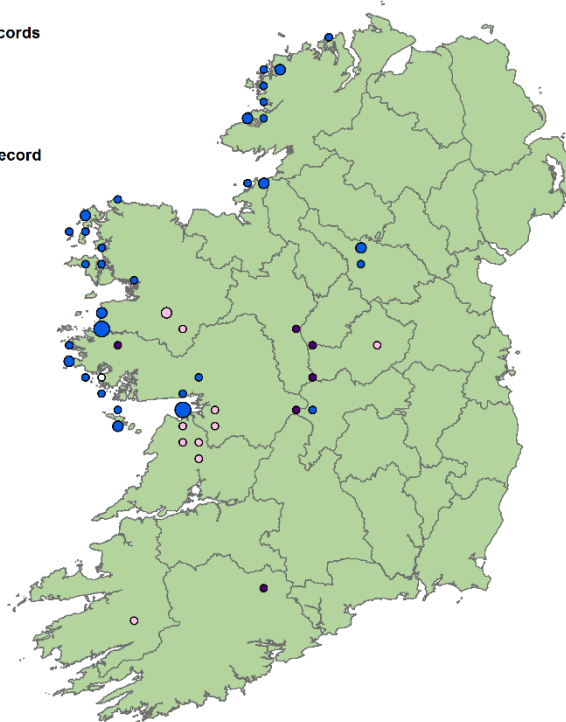
2001-2015:	6
1986-2000:	31
1971-1985:	14
Pre-1971:	2

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

- 2001-2015
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



### Synopsis table (n = 178)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	V	2-(4)-8	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	IV	2-(4)-8	<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	I	2-(2)-4
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	IV	1-(5)-9	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> agg.	IV	1-(4)-9	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>	I	1-(2)-4
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	III	2-(3)-7	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	II	1-(3)-7	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	II	2-(5)-8	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	I	1-(2)-7
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	I	2-(3)-8
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	II	2-(3)-9	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	I	1-(2)-4
<i>Galium palustre</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	II	1-(5)-8	<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Utricularia australis/vulgaris</i>	I	2-(4)-9
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	II	1-(3)-6	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Carex nigra</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Apium inundatum</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Equisetum × litorale</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Lemna minor</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Bidens cernua</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Carex disticha</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I	1-(2)-5	<i>Veronica catenata</i>	I	2-(2)-5

#### Affinities

GHI: CD5 Dune slacks / FL6 Turloughs / GM1 Freshwater marsh / CW1 Lagoons and saline lakes

ZM: PHR-01A Phragmition communis Koch 1926

EUNIS: B1.83 Dune-slack fens / C1.67 Turlough and lake-bottom meadows / C3.412 Spike-rush shallow-water swards

NVC: S19 *Eleocharis palustris* swamp (49.7%)

Annex I: 2190 Dune slack / 3180 Turloughs\*

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.4      Reaction: 6.3      Wetness: 9.1      Fertility: 5.0      Salinity: 0.5

#### Conservation value

This community does not have notable plant diversity. This vegetation is found in turlough basins in the mid-west of Ireland where it corresponds with the priority habitat 3180 Turloughs\*. Examples from coastal dune-systems may correspond with the EU HD Annex I habitat 2190 Dune slack. It has also been recorded adjacent to areas corresponding to priority habitat 1150 Lagoon\*

#### Management

Many of these stands are subject to livestock grazing. The main threats are groundwater pollution, drainage, inappropriate grazing and reclamation.

#### Key references

Beckers, A., Brock, T., Klerkx, J. (1976) A vegetation study of some parts of Dooaghtry, Co. Mayo, Republic of Ireland (unpublished). National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin, Ireland.

Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A., Conaghan, J. (1996) BIOMAR survey of Irish machairs sites. Vol. I. Site information. (No. 3), Irish Wildlife Manuals. Dúchas, The Heritage Service, Dublin, Ireland.

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