



Scientific name	<i>Littorella uniflora</i> – <i>Ranunculus flammula</i> aquatic community
Common name	Shoreweed – Lesser Spearwort aquatic community
Community code	FW1A

Vegetation

Littorella uniflora is the key character species of this aquatic community and the only constant. It is frequently accompanied by *Juncus bulbosus* and occasionally by *Lobelia dortmanna*, *Baldellia ranunculoides* and *Eriocaulon aquaticum*. *Ranunculus flammula* is frequent, growing in shallower waters, whilst *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* can occur at greater depths. *Juncus articulatus*, *Eleocharis multicaulis*, *Carex viridula*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Mentha aquatica* occur occasionally at the terrestrial transition.

Ecology

This community is typical of the nutrient-poor, clear shallow waters of oligotrophic lakes on acid stony substrates, but may occur in more mesotrophic lakes.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

From the closely-related other communities in this group, FW1A differs chiefly by the abundance and frequency of *Littorella dortmanna*.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	114
Transitional:	3
Total:	117

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	27
1986-2000:	18
1971-1985:	28
Pre-1971:	28
Total:	101

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	5
1986-2000:	10
1971-1985:	7
Pre-1971:	5
Total:	27

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

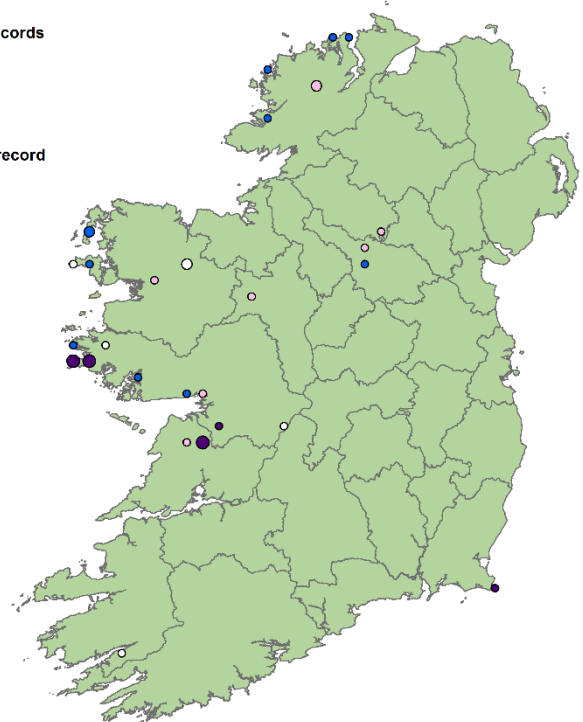
2001-2015:	5
1986-2000:	11
1971-1985:	10
Pre-1971:	6

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 104)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Littorella uniflora</i>	V	3-(7)-9	<i>Carex nigra</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	III	1-(3)-8	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	III	1-(3)-7	<i>Carex panicea</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	II	2-(3)-8	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	II	2-(4)-7	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Isolepis fluitans</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Carex viridula</i>	II	1-(3)-7	<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	II	1-(2)-5	<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	I	1-(2)-5
<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>	II	1-(3)-7	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	II	+(2)-5	<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Scorpidium scorpioides</i>	II	2-(7)-8	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i>	I	2-(4)-5
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	I	5-(7)-7
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	I	1-(3)-5	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	I	1-(3)-7	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	I	3-(4)-5
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	I	2-(3)-6	<i>Bryum pseudotriquetrum</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	I	1-(2)-3	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	I	3-(5)-5
<i>Apium inundatum</i>	I	2-(2)-7	<i>Potamogeton lucens</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Galium palustre</i>	I	1-(2)-4	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>	I	2-(3)-7

Affinities

GHI: FL2 Oligotrophic lakes

ZM: LIT-01E Littorellion uniflorae Koch ex Klika 1935

EUNIS: C3.4111 Shoreweed lawns

NVC: A22a *Littorella uniflora* – *Lobelia dortmanna* community *Littorella uniflora* sub-community (67.2%)

Annex I:3110 Oligotrophic soft water lakes

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.8 Reaction: 5.2 Wetness: 10.0 Fertility: 2.8 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

Many examples of this habitat will correspond with EU HD Annex I habitat 3110 Oligotrophic lakes. *Eriocaulon aquaticum* has a distinctly restricted distribution in Ireland.

Management

This community is typically unmanaged. The main threats to the lakes in which it occurs are eutrophication from agriculture and forestry, and inflow of suspended organic sediment from degraded peatlands.

Key references

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 Science of the Royal Dublin Society* 3, 221–242.

Scully, A.C., (1989) Ecological studies of the aquatic species, *Eriocaulon aquaticum* (Hill) Druce and *Lobelia dortmanna* L. (M.Sc.). National University of Ireland Galway.

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