

Scientific name	<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i> – <i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i> aquatic community
Common name	Greater Water-moss – Alternate Water-milfoil aquatic community
Community code	FW2A

Vegetation

This is a species-poor, bryophyte-dominated aquatic community, usually with only sparse cover of vascular plants. *Fontinalis antipyretica* is the only constant species and can form sizeable submerged or floating patches. The most likely other bryophytes to be seen here are *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Leptodictyum riparium* and *Chiloscyphus polyanthos*. In the more nutrient-poor acidic streams of the uplands, *Fontinalis squamosa* may be found. In terms of vascular plants, the trailing stems of *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* occasionally occur within this community, while other species are rare but may include patches of *Apium nodiflorum*, *Ranunculus penicillatus* and *Potamogeton* species.

Ecology

This community occurs in a range of aquatic habitats including lagoons and turloughs but it most typically found in mesotrophic, mildly base-rich rivers and streams.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described

Similar communities

The FW2B *Rhynchostegium riparioides* – *Chiloscyphus polyanthos* aquatic community is also dominated by bryophytes, but has a more diverse assemblage of mosses in which its titular species are far more frequent than they are in the present community

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	108
Transitional:	10
Total:	118

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	92
1986-2000:	10
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	106

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	61
1986-2000:	4
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	67

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

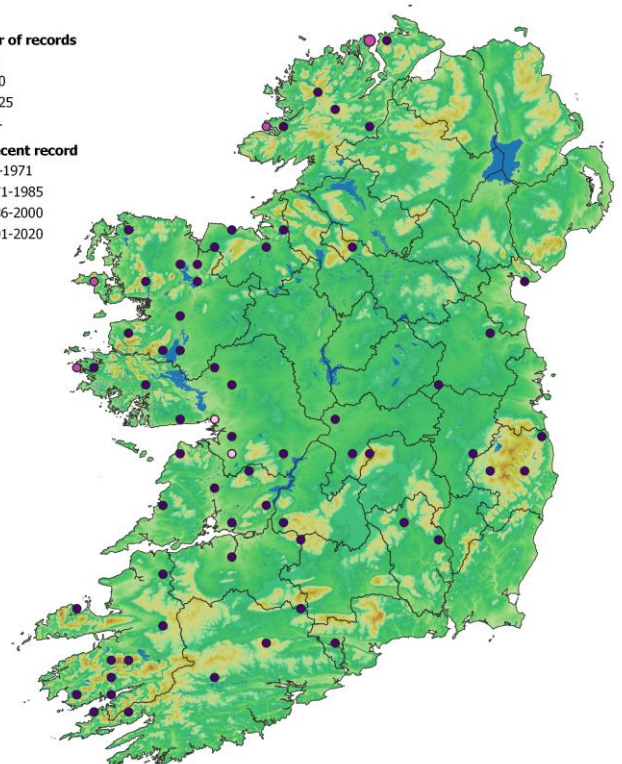
2001-2020:	61
1986-2000:	4
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 107)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	V	+-(2)-5	<i>Rorippa nast.-aquaticum</i> agg.	I	1-(1)-2
<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>	II	+-(+)-5	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Crocoshia × crocosmiiflora</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Rhynchosstegium riparioides</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Leptodictyum riparium</i>	I	+-(1)-2	<i>Cinclidotus fontinaloides</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	I	+-(+)-2
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Chiloscyphus polyanthos</i>	I	+-(2)-4	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	I	+-(1)-5
<i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	I	+-(+)-+	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Fontinalis squamosa</i>	I	+-(2)-5	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	I	+-(+)-1	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	I	+-(+)-3	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	I	+-(+)-+	<i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Rorippa amphibia</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	I	+-(+)-+	<i>Scapania undulata</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	I	+-(+)-2	<i>Sparganium emersum</i>	I	+-(+)-+

Affinities

GHI: CW1 Lagoons and saline lakes / FL6 Turloughs / FW1 Eroding/upland rivers

ZM: SA01B Hygrohypnion dilatati Krajina 1933

EUNIS: C1 Surface standing waters / C2.27 Mesotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing rivers / C2.33 Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers

NVC: A14 *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* community (32.1%), but bryophyte-dominated communities are outside scope of the NVC

Annex I:1150 Lagoons* / 3260 Vegetation of flowing waters

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.3 Reaction: 5.9 Wetness: 10.8 Fertility: 5.0 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

This is a species-poor community but due to the abundance of *Fontinalis antipyretica* it comprises part of the upland aspect of the EU HD Annex I habitat 3260 Floating river vegetation. It may also occur in habitat 1150 Lagoons*.

Management

This community has no specific management. It may be adversely affected by eutrophication, siltation and river engineering including dredging and canalisation.

Key references

McGarrigle, M. (2010) Irish national river macrophyte and associated environmental data collected as part of the macrophyte intercalibration exercise in the Central and Baltic GIG under the Water Framework Directive. (unpublished data). Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford.

Kelly-Quinn, M., Bradley, C., Dodkins, I., Harrington, T.J., Ni Chathain, B., O'Connor, M., Rippey, B., Trigg, D. (2005) Water Framework Directive – Characterisation of reference conditions and testing of typology of rivers (2002-W-LS-7). Final Report. (unpublished). Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin

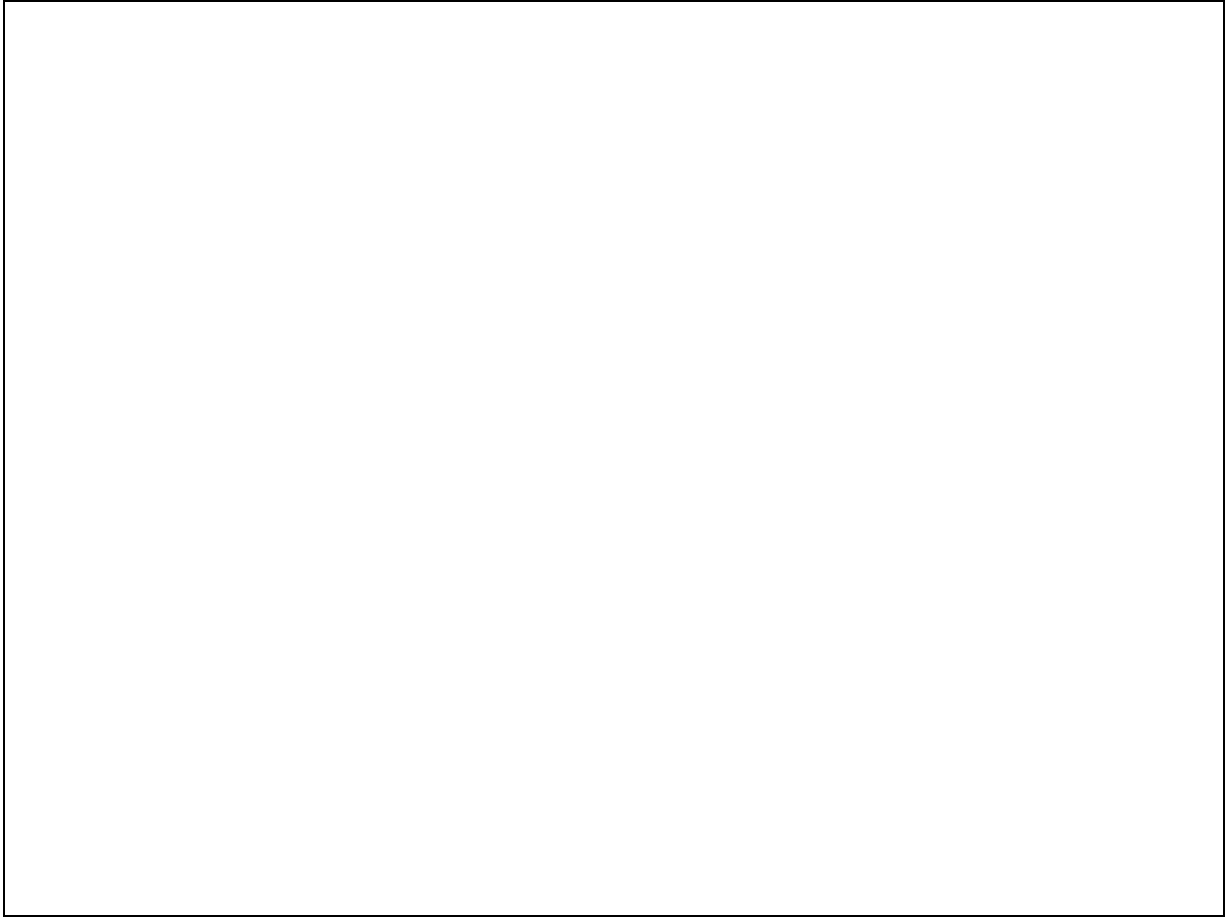


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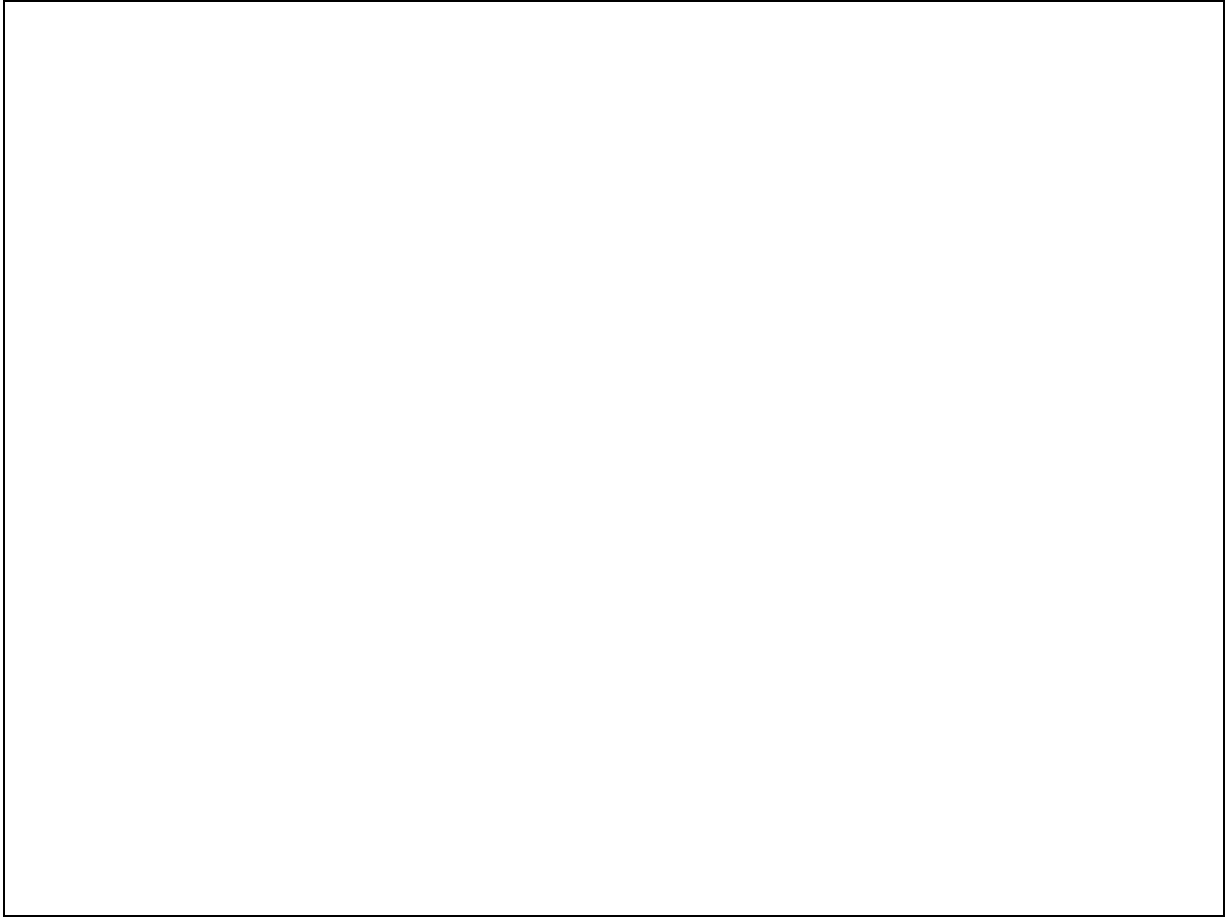


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