



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i> – <i>Sparganium erectum</i> swamp
<b>Common name</b>	Common Club-rush – Branched Bur-reed swamp
<b>Community code</b>	FW2G

### Vegetation

*Schoenoplectus lacustris* and *Sparganium erectum* are constants within this river community, forming an emergent element in which *Phalaris arundinacea* and *Apium inundatum* are frequently encountered while *Berula erecta* and *Myosotis scorpioides* are occasionally found. An accompanying element of floating-leaf and free-floating plants is characterised by *Nuphar lutea*, which can be abundant, with *Potamogeton natans*, *Potamogeton crispus* and *Lemna minor* occasional. *Sparganium emersum* is a frequent plant which may contribute to either or both of these elements. Submerged plants may also occur but are infrequent, the chief species are likely to be the non-native *Elodea canadensis*, submerged forms of *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*, the bryophyte *Fontinalis antipyretica* and *Miriophyllum spicatum*.

### Ecology

This is a community of lowland freshwater river systems with fairly base-rich and eutrophic waters.

### Sub-communities

Three tentative sub-communities are proposed to help differentiate between areas of vegetation in which different community constants are dominant. These are the *Schoenoplectus lacustris* sub-community (FW2Gi), the *Sparganium erectum* sub-community (FW2Gii) and the *Nuphar lutea* sub-community (FW2Giii). Recording of homogeneous vegetation stands within this community would elucidate these sub-communities.

### Similar communities

*Schoenoplectus lacustris* is also a constant in community FW3D *Schoenoplectus lacustris* – *Phragmites australis* swamp. In that less diverse assemblage, *Sparganium erectum* and *Nuphar lutea* are much less frequent, however, and *S. lacustris* tends to dominate.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	83
Transitional:	15
Total:	98

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	20
1986-2000:	6
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	28

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

2001-2015:	17
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	21

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

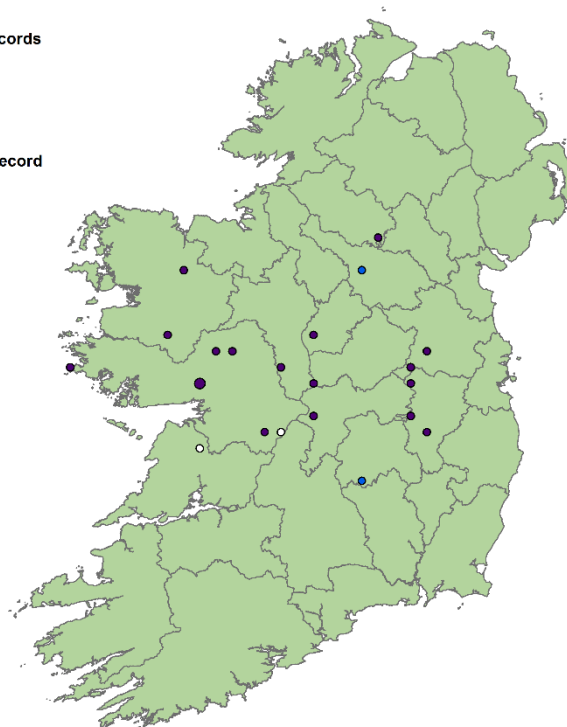
2001-2015:	17
1986-2000:	3
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	2

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

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



### Synoptic table (n = 80)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	V	+(-)2-4	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	I	+(-)-+
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	IV	+(-)1-5	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	I	+(-)-1
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	IV	+(-)1-7	<i>Oenanthe aquatica</i>	I	+(-)-2
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	III	+(-)-4	<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	I	+(-)1-3
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	III	+(-)1-3	<i>Glyceria notata</i>	I	+(-)1-1
<i>Sparganium emersum</i>	III	+(-)1-3	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	I	+(-)1-1
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	II	+(-)-2	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	I	+(-)1-2
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	II	+(-)2-5	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	I	+(-)1-1
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	II	+(-)1-3	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	I	+(-)1-3
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	II	+(-)1-2	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	I	+(-)-5
<i>Lemna minor</i>	II	+(-)2-3	<i>Callitriche hermaphroditica</i>	I	+(-)-+
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	II	+(-)-2	<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	I	+(-)1-2
<i>Berula erecta</i>	II	+(-)-2	<i>Leptodictyum riparium</i>	I	+(-)1-3
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	II	+(-)1-4	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	I	+(-)-1
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	II	+(-)-3	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	I	+(-)-2
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	II	+(-)-1	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	I	+(-)2-3
<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	I	+(-)1-2	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> agg.	I	+(-)1-1
<i>Potamogeton lucens</i>	I	+(-)2-3	<i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i>	I	+(-)1-1
<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	I	+(-)-2	<i>Rhynchosstegium riparioides</i>	I	+(-)-2
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	I	+(-)1-3	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	I	+(-)-+

#### Affinities

GHI: FW2 Depositing/lowland rivers / FS1 Reed and large sedge swamp

ZM: PHR-01A Phragmition communis Koch 1926

EUNIS: C3.22 *Scirpus lacustris* beds / C2.34 Eutrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers

NVC: S14 *Sparganium erectum* swamp (42.4%) / A8 *Nuphar lutea* community (41.3%) / S8b *Scirpus lacustris* ssp. *lacustris* swamp *Sparganium erectum* sub-community (41.1%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.2      Reaction: 6.8      Wetness: 10.8      Fertility: 6.1      Salinity: 0.2

#### Conservation value

*Elodea canadensis* is an invasive non-native species found in this community but it is not considered a major ecological threat and has already colonised much of its suitable niche in Ireland.

#### Management

This community may be affected by eutrophication, river engineering including dredging and canalisation, clearance works for navigation and trampling from livestock with access to the bankside.

#### Key references

Caffrey, J. (1990) Classification and dynamics of aquatic macrophytes in some Irish rivers. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin, Ireland.

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