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|------------------------|---|
| Scientific name | <i>Potamogeton natans</i> – <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> aquatic community |
| Common name | Broad-leaved Pondweed – Water Horsetail aquatic community |
| Community code | FW3J |

Vegetation

Potamogeton natans is the only constant of this quite variable aquatic community and is usually a modest dominant. Occasionally found floating beside the pondweed are patches of *Lemna minor* or pads of *Nymphaea alba*. In an emergent element, *Equisetum fluviatile* and *Phragmites australis* are both frequent while *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Hippuris vulgaris*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Eleocharis palustris* and *Apium nodiflorum* occur less often.

Ecology

This community occurs in mesotrophic, fairly base-rich waters in lakes, lagoons and turloughs.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

This community is closely related to the FW3A *Nymphaea alba* – *Phragmites australis* aquatic community, but can be differentiated on the contrasting frequencies and abundancies of *Potamogeton natans* and *Nymphaea alba*.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Clearly assigned: | 52 |
| Transitional: | 1 |
| Total: | 53 |

Number of records (mapped)

| | |
|------------|----|
| 2001-2015: | 11 |
| 1986-2000: | 20 |
| 1971-1985: | 20 |
| Pre-1971: | 0 |
| Total: | 51 |

Number of hectads (most recent records)

| | |
|------------|----|
| 2001-2015: | 4 |
| 1986-2000: | 9 |
| 1971-1985: | 1 |
| Pre-1971: | 0 |
| Total: | 14 |

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

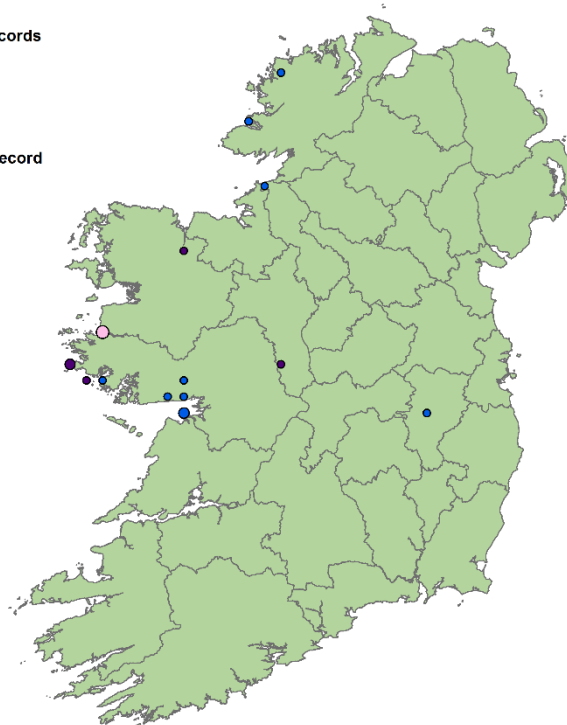
| | |
|------------|----|
| 2001-2015: | 4 |
| 1986-2000: | 10 |
| 1971-1985: | 2 |
| Pre-1971: | 0 |

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 48)

| Species | Frequency (from I-V) | Cover min (med) max | Species | Frequency (from I-V) | Cover min (med) max |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Potamogeton natans</i> | V | 3-(5)-9 | <i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> | 3-(3)-5 | I |
| <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> | III | 2-(3)-8 | <i>Typha latifolia</i> | 2-(2)-4 | I |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> | III | 2-(3)-3 | <i>Utricularia australis/vulgaris</i> | 2-(2)-2 | I |
| <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | II | 2-(3)-4 | <i>Juncus bulbosus</i> | 3-(4)-5 | I |
| <i>Hippuris vulgaris</i> | II | 2-(3)-5 | <i>Nuphar lutea</i> | 2-(3)-9 | I |
| <i>Mentha aquatica</i> | II | 2-(3)-5 | <i>Isolepis fluitans</i> | 3-(3)-3 | I |
| <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> | II | 2-(3)-3 | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | 2-(3)-3 | I |
| <i>Lemna minor</i> | II | 2-(2)-5 | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> | 3-(7)-8 | I |
| <i>Nymphaea alba</i> | II | 2-(3)-4 | <i>Potentilla palustris</i> | 2-(2)-2 | I |
| <i>Apium nodiflorum</i> | II | +(2)-3 | <i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i> | 2-(2)-2 | I |
| <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 | <i>Ranunculus flammula</i> | 2-(2)-2 | I |
| <i>Juncus articulatus</i> | I | 2-(3)-3 | <i>Carex nigra</i> | 2-(2)-2 | I |
| <i>Sparganium erectum</i> | I | 2-(4)-9 | <i>Calliergon giganteum</i> | 2-(2)-3 | I |
| <i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i> | I | 2-(2)-3 | <i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> | 2-(2)-3 | I |
| <i>Sparganium natans</i> | I | 3-(4)-5 | <i>Glyceria fluitans</i> | 2-(3)-3 | I |
| <i>Carex rostrata</i> | I | 2-(3)-3 | <i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> | 3-(4)-4 | I |
| <i>Persicaria amphibia</i> | I | 2-(3)-9 | <i>Potamogeton coloratus</i> | 7-(8)-8 | I |
| <i>Lemna trisulca</i> | I | +(2)-2 | <i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> | 2-(3)-3 | I |
| <i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i> | I | +(2)-3 | <i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i> | 3-(7)-9 | I |
| <i>Apium inundatum</i> | I | 2-(3)-3 | <i>Drepanocladus aduncus</i> | 3-(4)-4 | I |

Affinities

GHI: CW1 Lagoons and saline lakes / FL6 Turloughs / FL4 Mesotrophic lakes

ZM: POT-01A Potamogetonion Libbert 1931

EUNIS: C1.2414 Broad-leaved pondweed carpets

NVC: S4c *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds *Menyanthes trifoliata* sub-community (49.3%) (but also, A9a *Potamogeton natans* community species-poor sub-community (43.4%))

Annex I:1150 Lagoon* / 3180 Turloughs*

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.1 Reaction: 6.1 Wetness: 10.7 Fertility: 4.4 Salinity: 0.2

Conservation value

This is species-poor aquatic community. Samples have been recorded from lagoons which correspondent with the priority EU HD Annex I habitat 1150 Lagoons*. Samples from turlough basins correspond to priority habitat 3180 Turloughs*.

Management

This is an unmanaged community. The main threat would appear to be eutrophication.

Key references

Brock, T., Frigge, P., van der Ster, H., (1979) A vegetation study of the pools and surrounding wetlands in the Dooaghtry area, Co. Mayo (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.

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.

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