



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Elytrigia juncea</i> duneland
<b>Common name</b>	Sand Couch duneland
<b>Community code</b>	DU1A

### Vegetation

This duneland community is dominated by *Elytrigia juncea* which initially occurs as colonising patches on the sand but can later form dense, glaucous expanses. Other species are at best occasional. *Honckenya peploides* and *Salsola kali* are the most frequent strandline species to be encountered. *Ammophila arenaria* can form patches where this community merges into marram duneland.

### Ecology

This is a colonising community of sandy shorelines, where accretion of sand around *Elymus juncea* leads to the formation of embryonic dunes, usually less than one metre high.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

This is a straightforward community that is unlikely to cause confusion.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	236
Transitional:	19
Total:	255

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	35
1986-2000:	129
1971-1985:	61
Pre-1971:	30
Total:	255

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

2001-2017:	23
1986-2000:	30
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	5
Total:	61

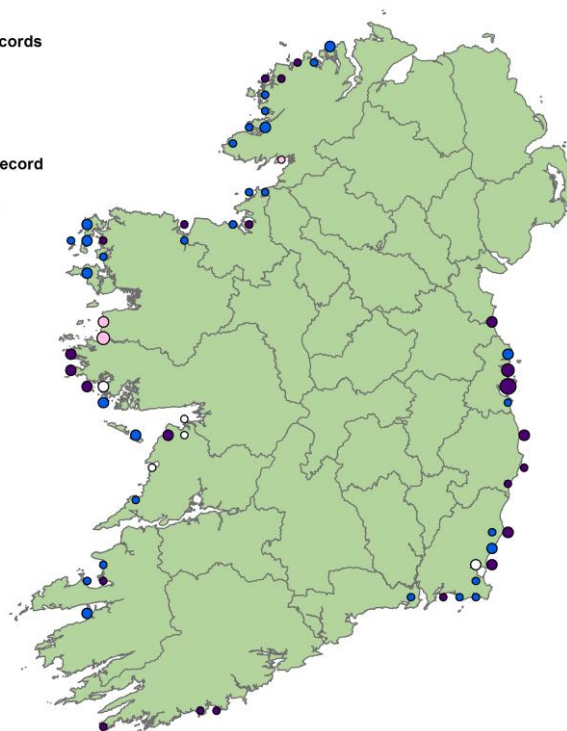
#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2017:	23
1986-2000:	45
1971-1985:	5
Pre-1971:	10

#### Number of records



#### Most recent record



**Synoptic table (n = 210)**

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>	V	2-(5)-10	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	II	+- (3)-5	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	II	+- (3)-8	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	I	1-(2)-5
<i>Salsola kali</i>	II	+- (2)-5	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	I	+- (3)-5	<i>Atriplex laciniata</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	I	+- (3)-7	<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	I	+- (3)-7
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	I	+- (2)-8	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	I	+- (2)-4
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	I	+- (3)-5	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	I	1-(3)-7
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	I	+- (3)-6	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	I	1-(2)-6
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	I	+- (2)-3	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	I	1-(3)-5	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	+- (2)-3	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	I	+- (3)-3
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	I	+- (2)-3	<i>Sedum acre</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	I	+- (2)-8	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	I	+- (3)-3
<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>	I	+- (2)-4	<i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i>	I	+- (2)-4
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	I	+- (2)-3	<i>Daucus carota</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I	1-(2)-4	<i>Poa pratensis/humilis</i>	I	2-(3)-4
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	I	1-(2)-3	<i>Galium aparine</i>	I	1-(2)-4
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	I	+- (3)-4	<i>Galium verum</i>	I	2-(3)-7

**Affinities**

GHI: CD1 Embryonic dunes

ZM: JD Ammophiletea (69.3%)

EUNIS: B1.311 Atlantic embryonic dunes

NVC: SD6a *Ammophila arenaria* mobile dune community *Elymus farctus* sub-community (73.8%), but also SD4 *Elymus farctus* ssp. *boreali-atlanticus* foredune community (73.3%)

Annex I:2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

**Proxy environmental data**

Light: 8.8    Reaction: 6.8    Wetness: 5.1    Fertility: 5.7    Salinity: 2.7

**Conservation value**

This community corresponds to EU HD Annex I habitat 2110 Embryonic dunes. It is very species-poor.

**Management**

Embryonic dunes are unstable habitats and part of the dynamic duneland system. They may be naturally removed by storms and high tides. Anthropogenic impacts including recreation and modification of the coastline.

**Key references**

Gaynor, K. (2007) Flora and vegetation of Irish sand dune systems. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A., Conaghan, J. (1996) Biomar survey of Irish machair sites 1996. Volume 2: Plant communities. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

Delaney, A., Devaney, F.M, Martin, J.M., Barron, S.J. (2013) Monitoring survey of Annex I sand dune habitats in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 75. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin.

**Synopsis version:** V1.0

**Synopsis date:** November 2019

**Synopsis author(s):** P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. DU1A *Elytrigia juncea* duneland, Portmarnock, Dublin (A. Delaney, September 2011)



Photo 2. DU1A *Elytrigia juncea* duneland, Mornington, Meath (A. Delaney, September 2011)