



Scientific name	<i>Succisa pratensis</i> – <i>Epipactis palustris</i> duneland
Common name	Devil's-bit Scabious – Marsh Helleborine duneland
Community code	DU3E

Vegetation

This is an unusual dune slack community, characterised by a number of species not found elsewhere in duneland systems. The constant graminoids are *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex otrubae*, *Festuca rubra*, *Carex nigra*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Juncus maritimus* and *Holcus lanatus*. *Briza media*, *Danthonia decumbens* and *Helictotrichon pubescens* are frequent grasses. The main forb species are *Succisa pratensis*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Prunella vulgaris* and *Filipendula ulmaria*. *Dactylorhiza purpurella* and the fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* may also be encountered in this diverse assemblage.

Ecology

This vegetation is currently only known from the desiccating dune slack system on North Bull Island in which the water is only mildly brackish.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

This community supports a number of species seldom found in other communities (e.g. *Succisa pratensis* and *Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and should be fairly easily distinguished.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	48
Transitional:	6
Total:	54

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	54
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	54

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2017:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	1

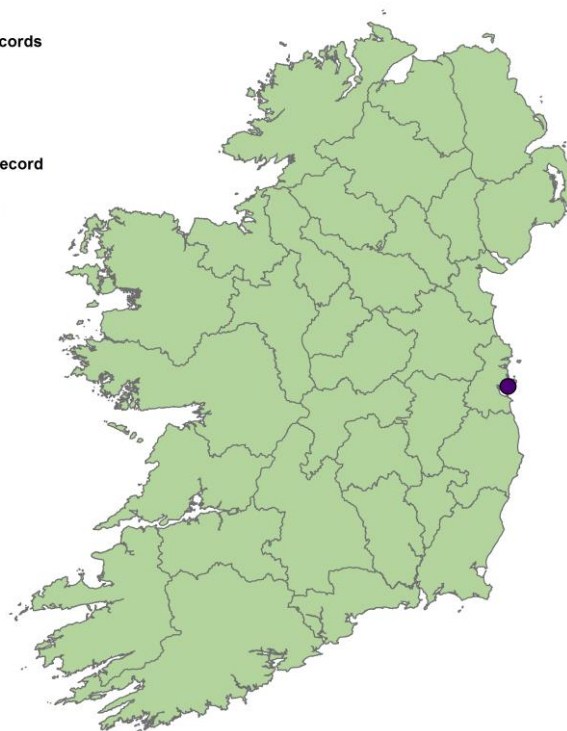
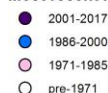
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2017:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 42)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	V	3-(8)-9	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	III	+-(+)-5
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	V	3-(8)-9	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	III	+-(5)-7
<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	V	+-(5)-8	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg.	II	2-(3)-7
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	IV	2-(8)-9	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	II	+-(3)-7
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	IV	+-(3)-7	<i>Poa annua</i>	II	2-(2)-5
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	IV	2-(9)-9	<i>Galium verum</i>	II	2-(5)-9
<i>Carex nigra</i>	IV	2-(5)-9	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	IV	2-(5)-9	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	II	+-(2)-7
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	IV	2-(5)-8	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	II	2-(5)-7
<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	IV	3-(8)-9	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	II	+-(3)-5
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	IV	2-(3)-8	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	II	2-(9)-9
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	IV	2-(9)-9	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	II	2-(2)-5
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	IV	2-(5)-8	<i>Scleropodium purum</i>	II	5-(8)-9
<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	III	3-(9)-9	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	II	+-(2)-7
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	III	2-(5)-8	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	II	3-(5)-8
<i>Briza media</i>	III	3-(6)-9	<i>Ononis repens</i>	I	3-(7)-9
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	III	2-(8)-9	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	I	3-(7)-9
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	III	2-(8)-9	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I	+-(3)-3
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	III	2-(4)-8	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I	+-(1)-5
<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>	III	2-(5)-8	<i>Salix repens</i>	I	2-(4)-9

Affinities

GHI: CD5 Dune slacks

ZM: CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (97.6%)

EUNIS: B1.83 Dune-slack fens

NVC: SD16b *Salix repens* – *Holcus lanatus* dune-slack community *Rubus caesius* sub-community (43.1%)

Annex I: 2190 Dune slacks

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.2 Reaction: 5.9 Wetness: 6.1 Fertility: 3.8 Salinity: 0.8

Conservation value

Examples of this vegetation correspond to the EU HD Annex I habitat 2190 Dune slacks

Management

This community is vulnerable to trampling by recreational walkers and alterations to the water table.

Key references

Devaney, F. (2008) The Alder Marsh: Ecohydrology and restoration prospects of a desiccating dune slack. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

Synopsis version: V1.0

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin

