

Scientific name	<i>Asplenium marinum</i> crevice community
Common name	Sea Spleenwort crevice community
Community code	RH4A

Vegetation

This is a very simple crevice community supporting the glossy, evergreen fronds of *Asplenium marinum*. No other species are frequent. Other ferns which may occur include *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *Adiantum capillus-veneris* and *Phyllitis scolopendrium*. Some bryophyte cover may be provided by *Fissidens* spp.

Ecology

This community is largely restricted to moist crevices or overhangs on coastal cliff faces where there may be some sea spray.

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:	16
Transitional:	0
Total:	16

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	14
Total:	16

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	4
Total:	6

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

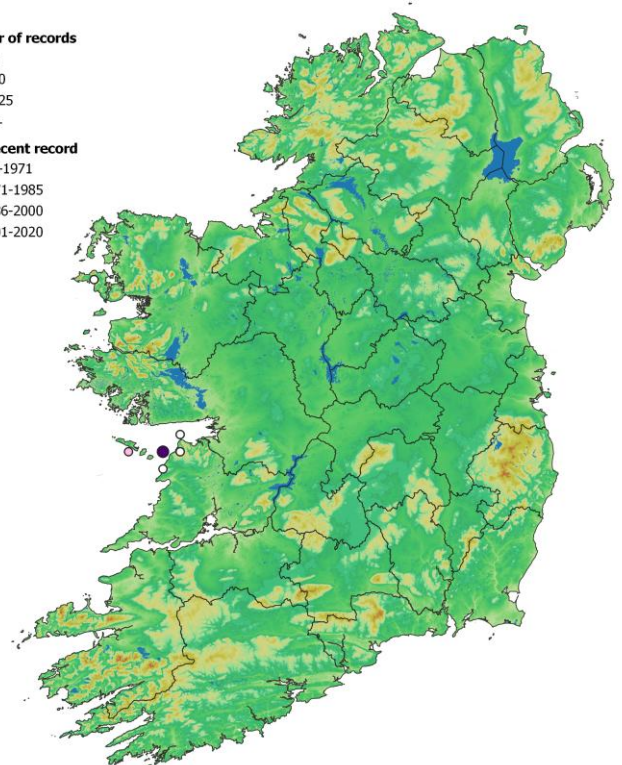
2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	5

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 11)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	V	3-(4)-8	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	II	2-(3)-6	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I	1-(4)-4	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Fissidens dubius</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	I	2-(4)-5	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	I	1-(1)-1	<i>Silene uniflora</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	I	1-(1)-1	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Aster tripolium</i>	I	+-(+)-+	<i>Tortella flavovirens</i>	I	5-(5)-5
<i>Barbula convoluta</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Tortella tortuosa</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Carex distans</i>	I	1-(1)-1	<i>Trichostomum brachydontium</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	I	1-(1)-1			
<i>Eucladium verticillatum</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Fissidens incurvus</i>	I	4-(4)-4			
<i>Homalothecium lutescens</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Homalothecium sericeum</i>	I	8-(8)-8			
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	I	1-(1)-1			

Affinities

GHI: CS1 Rocky sea cliffs

ZM: KC10A *Asplenion marini* Segal 1969

EUNIS: B3.31 Atlantic sea-cliff communities

NVC: MC1a *Crithmum maritimum-Spergularia rupicola* maritime rock-crevice community (16.2%), but see account of *Asplenium marinum* community in Rodwell et al. (p. 52, 2000)

Annex I:1230 Vegetated sea cliffs

Proxy environmental data

Light: 8.1 Reaction: 5.5 Wetness: 5.9 Fertility: 5.0 Salinity: 2.1

Conservation value

Most examples of this vegetation correspond to EU HD Annex I habitat 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs.

Management

This community does not require management.

Key references

Ivimey-Cook, R.B., Proctor, M.C.F. (1966) The plant communities of the Burren, Co. Clare. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 64B, 211-299.

Rodwell, J.S., Dring, J.C., Averis, A.B.G., Proctor, M.C.F., Malloch, A.J.C., Schaminée, J.H.J., Dargie, T.C.D. (2000) Review of coverage of the National Vegetation Classification, JNCC Report 302. JNCC, Peterborough.

Synopsis version: V1.1

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. Vegetation ascribable to RH4A *Asplenium marinum* crevice community, Inishtooskert, Kerry (R. Hodd, June 2018)



Photo 2. Vegetation ascribable to RH4A *Asplenium marinum* crevice community, Slieve Tooey, Donegal
(R. Hodd, August 2017)