



Scientific name	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> – <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> scrub
Common name	Blackthorn – Hawthorn scrub
Community code	SC1A

Vegetation

This community consists mainly of thorny mixes of *Prunus spinosa*, *Crataegus monogyna* and *Rubus fruticosus* agg. with clambering stems of *Hedera helix* and, beneath, some straggling *Galium aparine*. *Rosa canina*, *Ulex europaeus* and *Urtica dioica* can be frequently added to the rather unfriendly list of species. The ferns *Polystichum setiferum* and *Pteridium aquilinum* are also frequent, as is some weak growth of *Agrostis stolonifera*.

Ecology

Most records of this community come from hedgerows and hedgebanks in the lowlands, but it also occurs as scrub, invading abandoned fields and fringing woodland. Due to its thorny and rather commonplace nature, it has been vastly under-recorded.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

Community SC1B is similar in character, but lacks *Prunus spinosa*.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	34
Transitional:	3
Total:	37

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2018:	4
1986-2000:	25
1971-1985:	6
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	37

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2018:	3
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	10

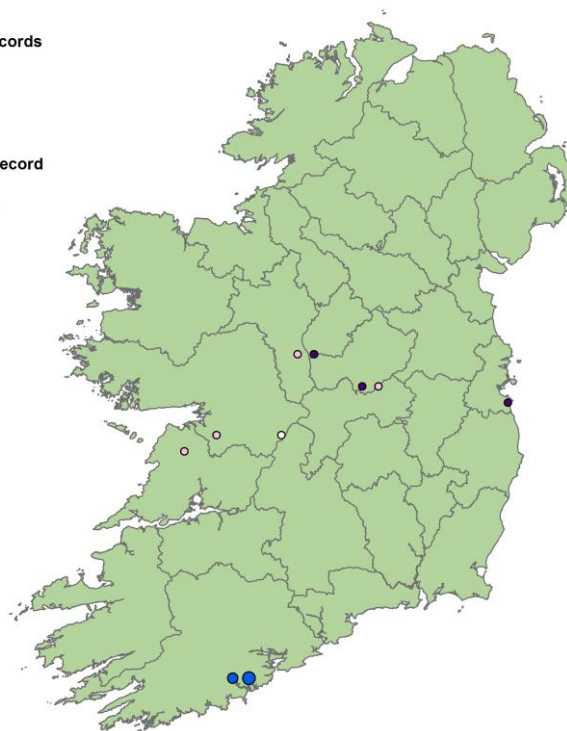
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2018:	3
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	1

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 23)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	V	3-(7)-8	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	II	2-(2)-5
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	V	3-(7)-8	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	II	2-(2)-3
<i>Hedera helix</i>	V	2-(7)-8	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	V	2-(7)-8	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Galium aparine</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Rosa canina</i>	III	3-(3)-5	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	III	2-(5)-7	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	III	2-(3)-3	<i>Stachys palustris</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	III	2-(6)-7	<i>Viola riviniana/reichenbachiana</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	II	2-(2)-5	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	I	2-(5)-5
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	I	2-(5)-5
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	I	5-(7)-7
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	II	2-(4)-7	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	I	2-(2)-2

Affinities

GHI: WL1 Hedgerows / WS1 Scrub

ZM: CD Crataego-Prunetea (69.6%)

EUNIS: F3.1112 Atlantic blackthorn-bramble scrub

NVC: W21a *Crataegus monogyna* – *Hedera helix* scrub *Hedera helix* – *Urtica dioica* sub-community (53.3%), but also
W22 *Prunus spinosa* – *Pteridium aquilinum* scrub (46.5%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 5.8 Reaction: 6.6 Wetness: 5.4 Fertility: 5.9 Salinity: 0.2

Conservation value

Vegetation corresponding to this community is typically of relatively low conservation value.

Management

Hedgerows would once have been periodically layed to maintain their vigour and make them stockproof. Today, the vast majority of hedges are mechanically flailed. Hedgerows and scrub may be lost due to enlargement of fields, agricultural improvement and urban developments.

Key references

Browne, A. (1998) Vegetation-environment interactions in the vicinity of a pharmaceutical plant near Kinsale, Co. Cork. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin

