



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Galium aparine</i> – <i>Urtica dioica</i> wayside community
<b>Common name</b>	Cleavers – Common Nettle wayside community
<b>Community code</b>	SC1F

### Vegetation

This is a herbaceous community typically formed of patches of *Urtica dioica* through which straggle the hooked stems of *Galium aparine*. The rather coarse grasses *Poa trivialis* and *Dactylis glomerata* are constants, as is *Ranunculus repens*. Often, a recorder will find some patches of *Holcus lanatus* or *Agrostis stolonifera*, tangles of *Calystegia sepium* and, perhaps thankfully, some dock leaves in the guise of *Rumex obtusifolius* or *Rumex sanguineus*. Umbellifers as a group are fairly frequent here; *Heracleum sphondylium* and its seasonal successor *Torilis japonica* are the most common, but the archaeophyte *Aegopodium podagraria* also occurs near habitation.

### Ecology

This common vegetation type is found on rather moist, disturbed, fertile soils in the lowlands. It occurs as a saum community fringing woodland, in the wayside between paths and hedgerows, in abandoned gardens and fields and on waste heaps.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

The community is unlikely to be confused with any others.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	20
Transitional:	10
Total:	30

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2018:	2
1986-2000:	6
1971-1985:	11
Pre-1971:	10
Total:	29

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

2001-2018:	1
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	8
Pre-1971:	8
Total:	19

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

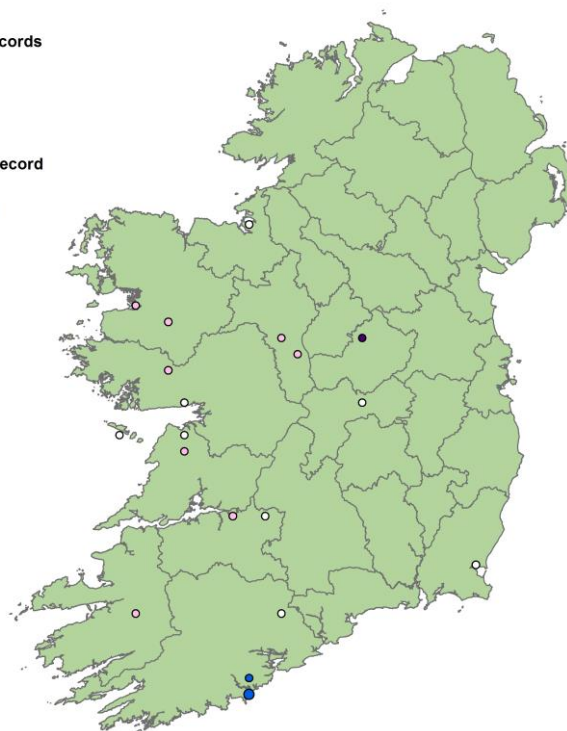
2001-2018:	1
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	8
Pre-1971:	9

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

- 2001-2018
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



### Synoptic table (n = 16)

Species	Frequency		Cover		Species	Frequency		Cover	
	(from I-V)		min	(med) max		(from I-V)		min	(med) max
<i>Galium aparine</i>	V		2-(3)-7		<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	II		2-(3)-5	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	V		3-(5)-8		<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	II		2-(3)-5	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	IV		2-(3)-5		<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	I		3-(3)-7	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	IV		2-(5)-8		<i>Chenopodium album</i>	I		2-(2)-3	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	IV		2-(3)-5		<i>Lapsana communis</i>	I		2-(2)-3	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	III		2-(3)-5		<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	I		2-(2)-2	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	III		2-(3)-8		<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	I		3-(3)-5	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	III		2-(5)-7		<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	I		2-(2)-3	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	III		2-(2)-5		<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I		2-(5)-5	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	III		+(5)-5		<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	I		+(2)-2	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	II		2-(4)-8		<i>Vicia sepium</i>	I		2-(2)-3	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	II		3-(7)-7		<i>Arum maculatum</i>	I		2-(2)-2	
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	II		2-(2)-2		<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	I		2-(2)-2	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	II		3-(5)-7		<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	I		3-(4)-5	
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	II		2-(2)-5		<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	I		3-(5)-7	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	II		2-(2)-2		<i>Plantago major</i>	I		2-(3)-3	
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	II		2-(3)-5		<i>Poa annua</i>	I		2-(3)-3	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	II		5-(5)-5		<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	I		2-(4)-5	
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	II		3-(4)-5		<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	I		2-(2)-2	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	II		2-(3)-3		<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	I		3-(3)-3	

#### Affinities

GHI: ED3 Recolonising bare ground / WS1 Scrub

ZM: QG Epilobietea angustifolii (37.5%) / CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (37.5%)

EUNIS: E5.11 Lowland habitats colonised by tall nitrophilous herbs / E5.43 Shady woodland edge fringes

NVC: MG1b *Arrhenatherum elatius* coarse grassland *Urtica dioica* sub-community (57.5%) but also, OV24 *Urtica dioica* – *Galium aparine* community (57.5%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.3    Reaction: 6.6    Wetness: 5.9    Fertility: 6.9    Salinity: 0.2

#### Conservation value

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

#### Management

This community usually occurs where there has been some disturbance but a general lack of management. Stands in verges and waysides may be periodically cut back.

#### 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.

Brun-Hool, J., Wilmanns, O. (1982) Plant communities of human-settlements in Ireland. 2. Gardens, parks and roads. *Journal of Life Sciences Royal Dublin Society* 3(1), 91-103.

Wilmanns, O., Brun-Hool, J. (1982) Irish mantel and saum vegetation. *Journal of Life Sciences Royal Dublin Society*, 3(1), 165-174.

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. Vegetation ascribable to SC1F *Galium aparine* – *Urtica dioica* wayside community, Bray, Wicklow (P. Perrin, November 2019)

