



Scientific name	<i>Atriplex prostrata</i> – <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> strandline community
Common name	Spear-leaved Orache – Sea Mayweed strandline community
Community code	ST1A

Vegetation

This strandline community is typically dominated by *Atriplex prostrata* frequently accompanied by the white and yellow flowers of *Tripleurospermum maritimum*. Other species are only occasional but include *Honckenya peploides*, *Cakile maritima*, *Beta vulgaris* and *Rumex crispus*.

Ecology

This is an assemblage of drift lines along the high tide mark on sandy or shingly beaches and similar vegetation also occurs at the landward margin of saltmarshes and on shingle banks.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

The abundance of *Atriplex prostrata* serves to distinguish this community from other strandline types.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	9
Transitional:	0
Total:	9

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	2
1986-2000:	5
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	9

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2017:	2
1986-2000:	5
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	8

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

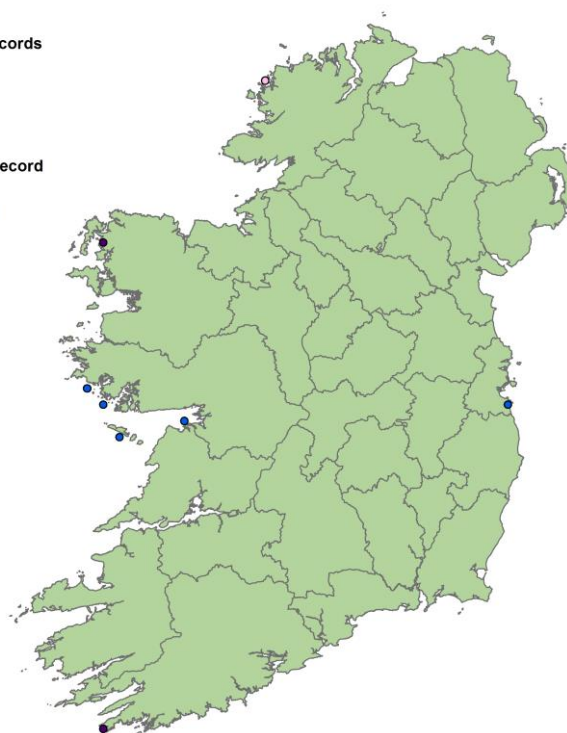
2001-2017:	2
1986-2000:	5
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

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

Most recent record

- 2001-2017
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



Synoptic table (n = 9)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	V	3-(6)-10			
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	III	2-(4)-7			
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	II	2-(2)-2			
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	II	+-(1)-1			
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	II	2-(2)-2			
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	II	2-(2)-2			
<i>Salsola kali</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Atriplex laciniata</i>	I	8-(8)-8			
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I	1-(1)-1			
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Galium aparine</i>	I	4-(4)-4			
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	I	1-(1)-1			
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	I	1-(1)-1			
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	I	1-(1)-1			
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Polygonum oxyspermum</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Catabrosa aquatica</i>	I	2-(2)-2			

Affinities

GHI: CB1 Shingle and gravel banks / LS1 Shingle and gravel shores / LS2 Sand shores

ZM: JC Cakiletea maritima (88.9%)

EUNIS: B2.12 Atlantic and Baltic shingle beach drift lines / B1.12 Middle European sand beach annual communities

NVC: SD2 *Honckenya peploides* – *Cakile maritima* strandline community (46.9%)

Annex I: 1210 Drift lines / 1220 Vegetated shingle

Proxy environmental data

Light: 8.0 Reaction: 6.9 Wetness: 6.6 Fertility: 6.9 Salinity: 2.0

Conservation value

Most examples of this species-poor vegetation correspond to EU HD Annex I habitat 1210 Drift lines, some, occurring on shingle banks, correspond to habitat 1220 Vegetated shingle.

Management

This is unstable and dynamic habitat that does not require active management. It is threatened however by recreational pressure, mechanical beach cleaning and the creation of coastal defences which can interfere with sediment dynamics.

Key references

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.

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.

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. ST1A *Atriplex prostrata* – *Tripleurospermum maritimum* strandline community, near Dog's Bay, Galway
(A. Delaney, July 2011)



Photo 2. ST1A *Atriplex prostrata* – *Tripleurospermum maritimum* strandline community, Doo Lough, Mayo
(K. Duff, August 2011)