

Scientific name	<i>Salix aurita</i> – <i>Luzula sylvatica</i> scrub
Common name	Eared Willow – Great Wood-rush scrub
Community code	SC1G

Vegetation

The scrub layer in this community is dominated by *Salix aurita* with its wrinkled leaves. Only occasionally will there be some cover of *Betula pubescens*, *Cratageus monogyna* or *Sorbus aucuparia*. Beneath, in the field layer, one will typically find a carpet of *Luzula sylvatica* with *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Rubus fruticosus* agg., *Lonicera periclymenum* and *Agrostis capillaris*. Occasional other ferns are *Athyrium filix-femina* and *Pteridium aquilinum*. The bryophyte component consists mainly of *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Kindbergia praelonga* and *Lophocolea bidentata*.

Ecology

Salix aurita – *Luzula sylvatica* scrub occurs on acidic, infertile soils in the uplands, typically amongst heath communities and open expanses of *Luzula sylvatica*. The successional ecology of these stands is unclear. Most current records come from the Ballyhoura Mountains, but the community is likely to be under-recorded and in reality more widespread.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

This community is unlikely to be muddled with any others. Care should be taken not to confuse *Salix aurita* with the hybrid willow *Salix* × *multinervis*, which has not been recorded from this community.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	19
Transitional:	10
Total:	29

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	22
1986-2000:	3
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	3
Total:	29

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	5
1986-2000:	1
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	8

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

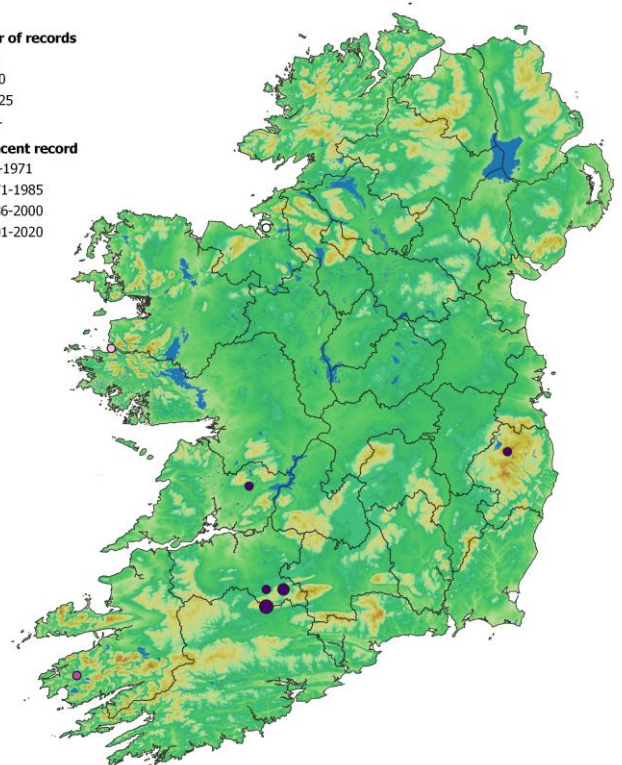
2001-2020:	5
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 15)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	V	3-(4)-6	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	III	3-(3)-4
<i>Salix aurita</i>	V	5-(8)-9	<i>Pellia epiphylla</i>	III	3-(4)-4
<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	V	3-(4)-7	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	III	3-(3)-3
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	V	5-(6)-7	<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>	II	3-(3)-3
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	V	3-(8)-9	<i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	II	3-(3)-3
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	IV	3-(3)-3	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	II	3-(3)-4
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	IV	3-(3)-5	<i>Rhizomnium punctatum</i>	II	3-(4)-5
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	IV	3-(3)-5	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	II	3-(5)-5
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	IV	3-(3)-7	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	II	3-(3)-4
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	IV	3-(3)-3	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	II	3-(4)-5
<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>	IV	3-(3)-4	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	II	3-(4)-4
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	III	3-(6)-9	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	II	4-(5)-5
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	III	3-(4)-6	<i>Fissidens bryoides</i>	II	3-(3)-4
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	III	3-(4)-5	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	II	3-(3)-3
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	III	3-(3)-3	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	II	3-(3)-3
<i>Hedera helix</i>	III	3-(3)-3	<i>Mnium hornum</i>	II	3-(3)-3
<i>Hookeria lucens</i>	III	3-(4)-4	<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	II	3-(3)-3
<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	III	3-(3)-3	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	II	3-(3)-4
<i>Plagiothecium succulentum</i>	III	3-(3)-3	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	II	3-(3)-5
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	III	3-(3)-5	<i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>	II	3-(3)-5

Affinities

GHI: WS1 Scrub

ZM: CR01C Salicion helveticae Rübél ex Theurillat in Theurillat et al. 1995

EUNIS: F2.323 Northern British willow brush

NVC: W7c *Alnus glutinosa*-*Fraxinus excelsior*-*Lysimachia nemorum* woodland *Deschampsia cespitosa* sub-community (42.1%), but see also U16 *Luzula sylvatica*-*Vaccinium myrtillus* tall-herb community and W20 *Salix lapponicum*-*Luzula sylvatica* scrub

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 5.6 Reaction: 4.4 Wetness: 6.7 Fertility: 4.1 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

This community does not correspond with any EU HD Annex I habitats but it adds structural and floral diversity to upland heathlands. Species/100 m² = 28.9, n = 9.

Management

The main threats to this habitat are probably burning of heathland and overgrazing.

Key references

Lynch, R. (2005) The vegetation of the Ballyhoura Mountains, Co. Limerick (woodland relevés). (unpublished). The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.

Synopsis version: V1.1

Synopsis date: March 2025

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. SC1G *Salix aurita* – *Luzula sylvatica* scrub, Seefin Mountain, Ballyhoura Mountains, Wicklow (O. Daly, July 2020)



Photo 2. SC1G *Salix aurita* – *Luzula sylvatica* scrub, Seefin Mountain, Ballyhoura Mountains, Limerick (R. Hodd, July 2020)