

Scientific name	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i> – <i>Limosella aquatica</i> inundation community
Common name	Redshank – Mudwort inundation community
Community code	WE2A

Vegetation

This is an open community of muddy ground in which the constant species are *Persicaria maculosa*, *Limosella aquatica*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Gnaphilium uliginosum* and *Juncus bufonius*. Other knotweeds, *Persicaria hydropiper* and *Polygonum aviculare* are also fairly frequent here, as are water-cresses in the form of *Rorippa palustris*, *Rorippa islandica* or *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* agg. Water-starworts are a feature of this community with both *Callitriche palustris* and *Callitriche stagnalis* having been recorded. Bryophyte cover is very low or absent, although the notable ephemeral liverwort *Riccia cavernosa* may be spotted.

Ecology

The *Persicaria maculosa* – *Limosella aquatica* inundation community occurs on banks of turloughs, reservoirs and rivers, where there is seasonal flooding. The community's many annual species establish on the fertile mud or stony substrate as it becomes exposed by dropping water levels.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

Persicaria maculosa is also a key species in the WE1F *Persicaria maculosa* – *Polygonum aviculare* weed community, but that is found in drier situations and lacks *Rorippa* spp., *Callitriche* spp. and *Limosella aquatica*.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	19
Transitional:	7
Total:	26

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	26
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	26

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	9
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	9

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

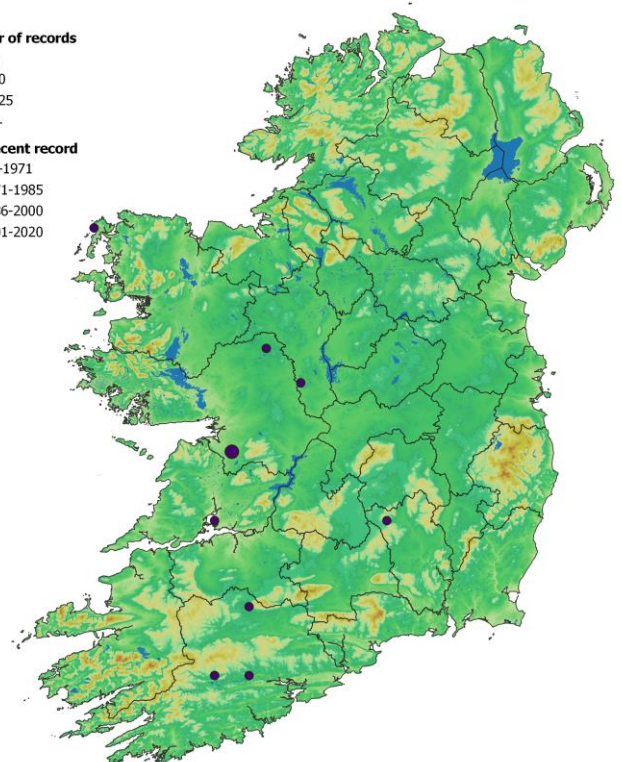
2001-2020:	9
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 18)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	V	1-(3)-5	<i>Rorippa nast.-aquaticum</i> agg.	I	1-(5)-5
<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	V	2-(3)-5	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	1-(1)-2
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	IV	1-(3)-5	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	IV	1-(3)-3	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Callitriche palustris</i>	III	1-(3)-3	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I	3-(5)-6
<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Poa annua</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	III	2-(3)-3	<i>Veronica scutellata</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Rorippa islandica</i>	III	1-(2)-3	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	II	1-(2)-5	<i>Elatine hexandra</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Lythrum portula</i>	II	1-(2)-3	<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Galium palustre</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	II	3-(4)-5	<i>Littorella uniflora</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	II	1-(3)-3	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	II	2-(2)-2	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Ranunculus circinatus</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	I	3-(3)-4	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	I	1-(2)-2	<i>Riccia cavernosa</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Plantago major</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	I	1-(1)-1
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	I	2-(3)-3	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	I	3-(3)-3

Affinities

GHI: ED3 Recolonising bare ground

ZM: OC02D Eleocharition soloniensis Philippi 1968

EUNIS: C3.52 *Bidens* communities (of lake and pond shores)

NVC: OV31 *Rorippa palustris*-*Filaginella uliginosa* community (50.1%)

Annex I:3270 *Chenopodium rubri*

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.3 Reaction: 6.0 Wetness: 7.2 Fertility: 5.7 Salinity: 0.3

Conservation value

Examples of this community may correspond to EU HD Annex I habitat 3270 *Chenopodium rubri*. *Limosella aquatica* has a restricted distribution in Ireland and is listed on the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015. Species/4 m² = 9.8, n = 16.

Management

This habitat is dependent upon relatively short periods of exposure that allow the annual species to flourish but prevent perennials from outcompeting them; thus any alterations to hydrological regimes would be problematic. Poaching by livestock is also a threat.

Key references

Conaghan, J., Fuller, J. (2018) A survey of the vegetation of the Habitats Directive Annex I habitat Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodium rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation (3270), in Ireland. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin

Conaghan, J., Roden, C., Fuller, J. (2006) A survey of rare and scarce vascular plants in County Galway. 3 volumes. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. Vegetation ascribable to WE2A *Pericaria maculosa* – *Limosella aquatica* inundation community, The Gearagh, Cork (J. Conaghan, September 2018)



Photo 2. Vegetation ascribable to WE2A *Pericaria maculosa* – *Limosella aquatica* inundation community, The Gearagh, Cork (J. Conaghan, August 2018)