Irish Vegetation Classification (IVC)

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Community Synopsis

Scientific name	*Juncus bufonius – Triglochin palustre* inundation community
Common name	Toad Rush – Marsh Arrowgrass inundation community
Community code	WE2B

Vegetation

Tangles of *Juncus bufonius* are the only constant feature of the vegetation of this variable and open inundation community of muddy ground. Frequently, there will be some accompanying patches of *Agrostis stolonifera*. In coastal locations, species such as *Triglochin palustre*, *Glaux maritima*, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* or *Spergularia marina* may occur. Another species indicative of muddy margins that may occur is *Catabrosa aquatica*.

Ecology

In coastal areas, this community occurs along streamsides and estuarine channels which are periodically inundated and there can be a high proportion of bare mud or sand. It has also recorded from the flood zones of lagoons and brackish coastal lakes, the margin of dune slacks and from wet areas within machair. At inland locations it has been noted on inundated paths in woodlands and peatlands and may also occur in wet arable fields.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

Juncus bufonius is also a constant species in the WE2A *Persicaria maculosa – Limosella aquatica* inundation community, but that is a more diverse community in which knotweeds, water-cresses and starworts are usually abundant.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	40
Transitional:	10
Total:	50

Number of records (mapped)

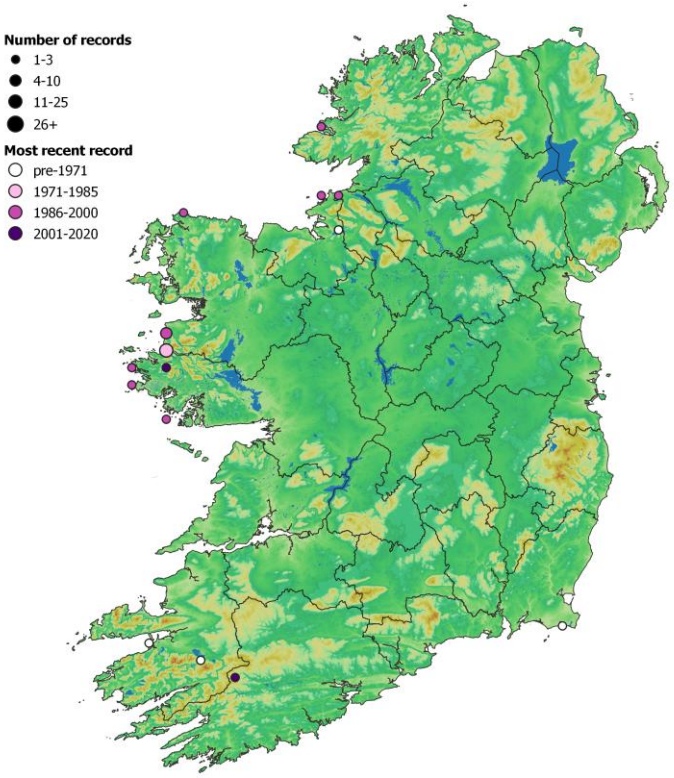
2001-2020:	2
1986-2000:	10
1971-1985:	27
Pre-1971:	8
Total:	47

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	2
1986-2000:	8
1971-1985	1
Pre-1971:	4
Total:	15

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

2001-2020:	2
1986-2000:	8
1971-1985	2
Pre-1971:	5



Synoptic table (*n* = 26)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
Juncus bufonius	V	2-(3)-7	*Epilichen scabrosus*	I	2-(2)-2
Triglochin palustre	III	2-(3)-5	*Eriophorum angustifolium*	I	2-(2)-2
Agrostis stolonifera	III	2-(3)-4	*Hypericum humifusum*	I	2-(2)-2
Glaux maritima	II	2-(2)-4	*Isolepis setacea*	I	5-(5)-5
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	II	2-(2)-5	*Juncus bulbosus*	I	3-(3)-3
Juncus articulatus	II	1-(3)-5	*Lythrum salicaria*	I	2-(2)-2
Bolboschoenus maritimus	I	2-(2)-4	*Molinia caerulea*	I	3-(3)-3
Eleocharis palustris	I	2-(3)-3	*Montia fontana*	I	2-(2)-2
Spergularia marina	I	2-(2)-2	*Plantago coronopus*	I	2-(2)-2
Juncus gerardii	I	2-(2)-2	*Poa annua*	I	2-(2)-2
Apium nodiflorum	I	1-(1)-2	*Ranunculus flammula*	I	2-(2)-2
Atriplex prostrata	I	3-(3)-3	*Rorippa nast.-aquaticum* agg.	I	3-(3)-3
Catabrosa aquatica	I	4-(5)-5	*Rumex acetosa*	I	1-(1)-1
Eleocharis uniglumis	I	3-(3)-3	*Rumex acetosella*	I	2-(2)-2
Isolepis cernua	I	2-(2)-2	*Rumex crispus*	I	3-(3)-3
Potentilla anserina	I	1-(1)-2	*Sagina nodosa*	I	2-(2)-2
Sagina procumbens	I	1-(1)-2	*Schoenoplectus lacustris*	I	2-(2)-2
Samolus valerandi	I	2-(3)-3	*Stellaria media*	I	3-(3)-3
Triglochin maritimum	I	2-(3)-3	*Stellaria uliginosa*	I	2-(2)-2
Tussilago farfara	I	3-(3)-3	*Veronica serpyllifolia*	I	2-(2)-2

Affinities

GHI: ED3 Recolonising bare ground

ZM: OC02D Eleocharition soloniensis Philippi 1968

EUNIS: C3.513 Dwarf toad-rush communities

NVC: S20 *Scirpus lacustris* ssp. *tabernaemontani* swamp (32.0%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.4 Reaction: 6.3 Wetness: 7.6 Fertility: 4.6 Salinity: 1.5

Conservation value

This is typically a rather species-poor community (species/4 m^2 = 6.3, *n* = 8), but reflects a natural flooding regime that may be absent from heavily modified landscapes.

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

Brock, T., Frigge, P., van der Ster, H. (1978) A vegetation study of the pools and surrounding wetlands in the Dooaghtry area, Co. Mayo, Republic of Ireland. (unpublished). Laboratory of Geobotany, Catholic University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Beckers, A., Brock, T., Klerkx, J. (1976) A vegetation study of some parts of Dooaghtry, Co. Mayo, Republic of Ireland. (unpublished). Laboratory of Geobotany, Catholic University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A., Conaghan, J. (1998) BIOMAR survey of Irish machair sites 1996. Volume 2: Plant communities. *Irish Wildlife Manuals* No. 4. Dúchas, The Heritage Service, Dublin.

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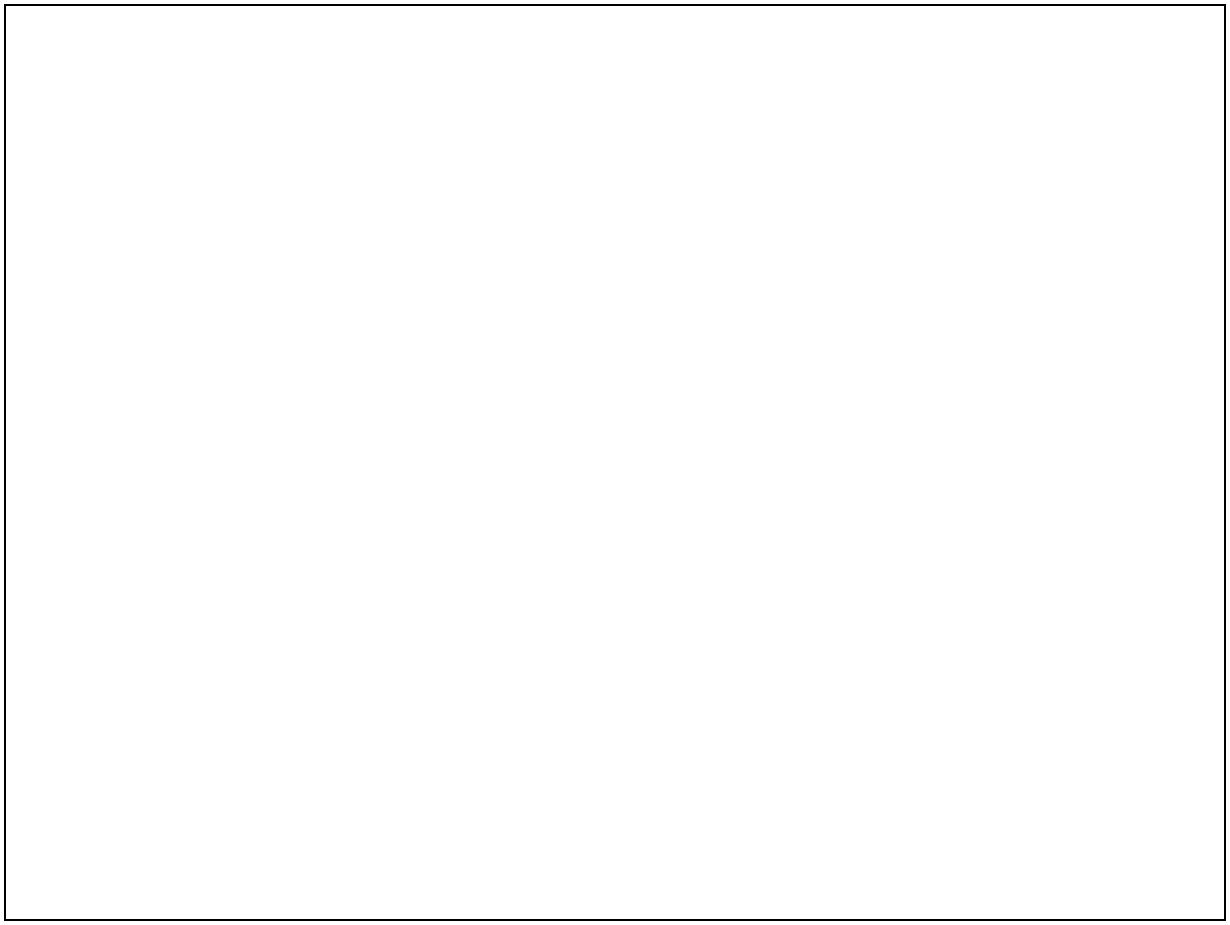

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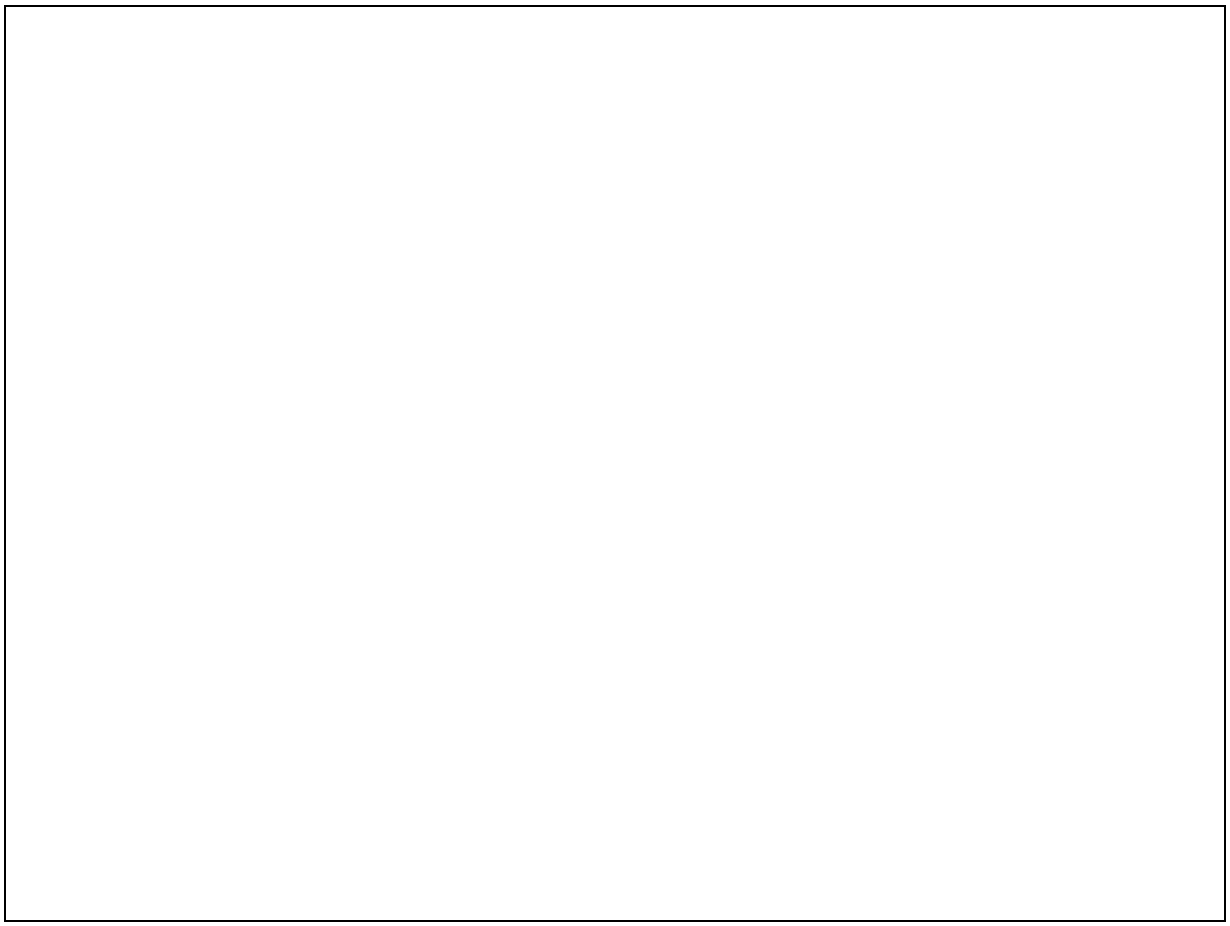

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