

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> invasive community
<b>Common name</b>	Rhododendron invasive community
<b>Community code</b>	IN1A

### Vegetation

This community represents dense, species-poor thickets of the invasive non-native *Rhododendron ponticum*. Other vascular plants are infrequent. Occasionally, these thickets occur below an oak canopy and in these instances one may also find some sparse cover from *Ilex aquifolium* or some spindly growth of *Sorbus aucuparia*. In the field layer there may be some poor growth of *Blechnum spicant* and *Molinia caerulea*, or some persisting stems of *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Numerous woodland bryophytes may be found here in the shade, but they are largely infrequent and sparsely growing. The main moss is *Thuidium tamariscinum*, which is constant. Others include *Dicranum majus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Mnium hornum* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*.

### Ecology

This community has currently only been recorded from the Connemara National Park, but undoubtedly is more widespread, invading acidic heaths, grasslands, bogs and woodlands and woodland margins.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

### Similar communities

This is a straightforward community that is unlikely to cause confusion. *Rhododendron* is a common invader of the acidic oakwoods represented by the WL1 *Quercus petraea* – *Luzula sylvatica* group. When *Rhododendron* is encountered beneath such a canopy, communities of that group should also be considered. As infestation progresses, stands are likely to become transitional between those communities and this one.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	27
Transitional:	0
Total:	27

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	18
1986-2000:	9
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	27

#### Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	1

#### Number of hectads (records in each time period)

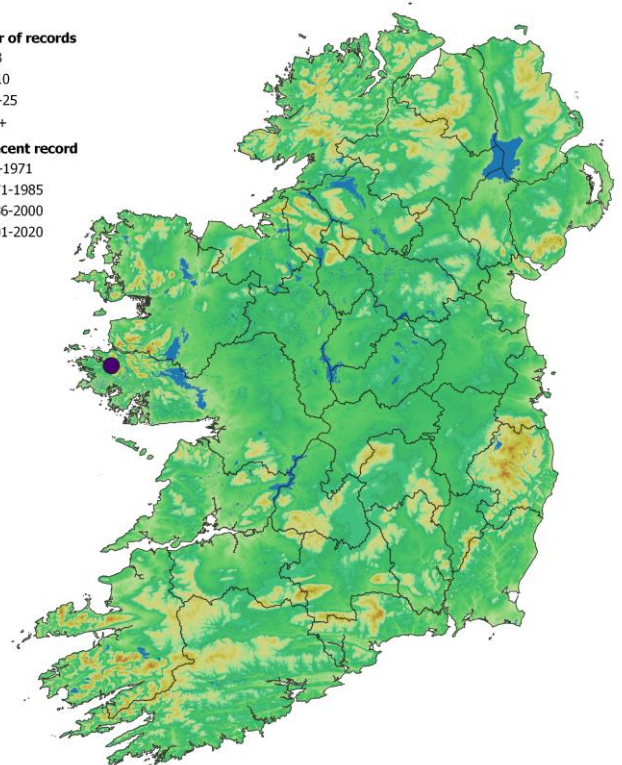
2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	1
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

**Number of records**

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

**Most recent record**

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



### Synopsis table (n = 27)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	V	5-(8)-9	<i>Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	I	5-(5)-7
<i>Dicranum majus</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Hookeria lucens</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	II	2-(2)-5	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	I	2-(4)-5
<i>Quercus × rosacea</i>	II	5-(7)-9	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Saccogyna viticulosa</i>	II	2-(2)-2	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	II	2-(2)-2	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Plagiothecium undulatum</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Eurhynchium striatum</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	II	2-(7)-8	<i>Hedera helix</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Isothecium alopecuroides</i>	I	3-(3)-5
<i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	II	2-(2)-2	<i>Isothecium myosuroides</i>	I	3-(5)-5
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Plagiothecium denticulatum</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	I	3-(3)-5	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	I	2-(3)-3

#### Affinities

GHI: WS3 Ornamental / non-native shrub

ZM: CA Carpino-Fagetea sylvaticae Jakucs ex Passarge 1968 (74.1%)

EUNIS: Not defined

NVC: W17 *Quercus petraea*-*Betula pubescens*-*Dicranum majus* woodland (36.8%), but also see account of *Rhododendron ponticum* community in Rodwell et al. (p. 60, 2000)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 5.3 Reaction: 3.4 Wetness: 5.4 Fertility: 3.2 Salinity: 0.0

#### Conservation value

This is an invasive community, typically with very low conservation value, although the shaded and humid conditions can support rare bryophytes. Species/100 m<sup>2</sup> = 16.6, n = 19.

#### Management

*Rhododendron ponticum* is listed in the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, making it an offence under Regulation 49 of that instrument to plant, disperse, allow or cause to grow this plant. *Rhododendron* thickets can be removed by cutting, uprooting or injection of herbicide. Follow-up work is imperative to prevent reinfestation, for example spraying of regrowth, treatment of stumps and removal of seedlings.

#### Key references

Sullivan, C. (2005) The distribution and impact of *Rhododendron ponticum* in Connemara National Park. (B.Sc. thesis). National University of Ireland, Galway.

Barron, C. (2009) The control of rhododendron in native woodlands. Native Woodland Scheme Information Note No. 3. Forest Service, Dublin.

Rodwell, J.S., Dring, J.C., Averis, A.B.G., Proctor, M.C.F., Malloch, A.J.C., Schaminée, J.H.J., Dargie, T.C.D. (2000) Review of coverage of the National Vegetation Classification, JNCC Report 302. JNCC, Peterborough.

Synopsis version: V2.0

Synopsis date: April 2021

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin

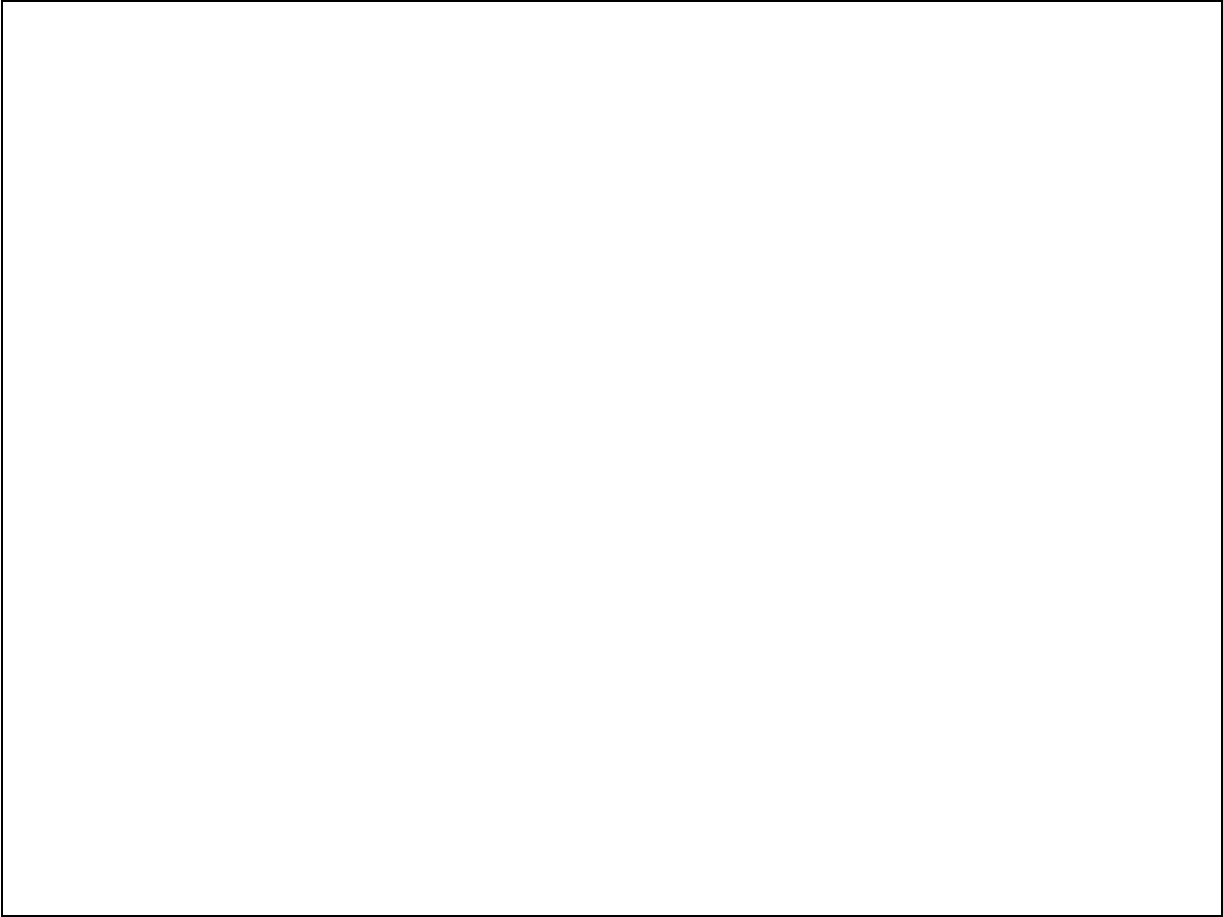


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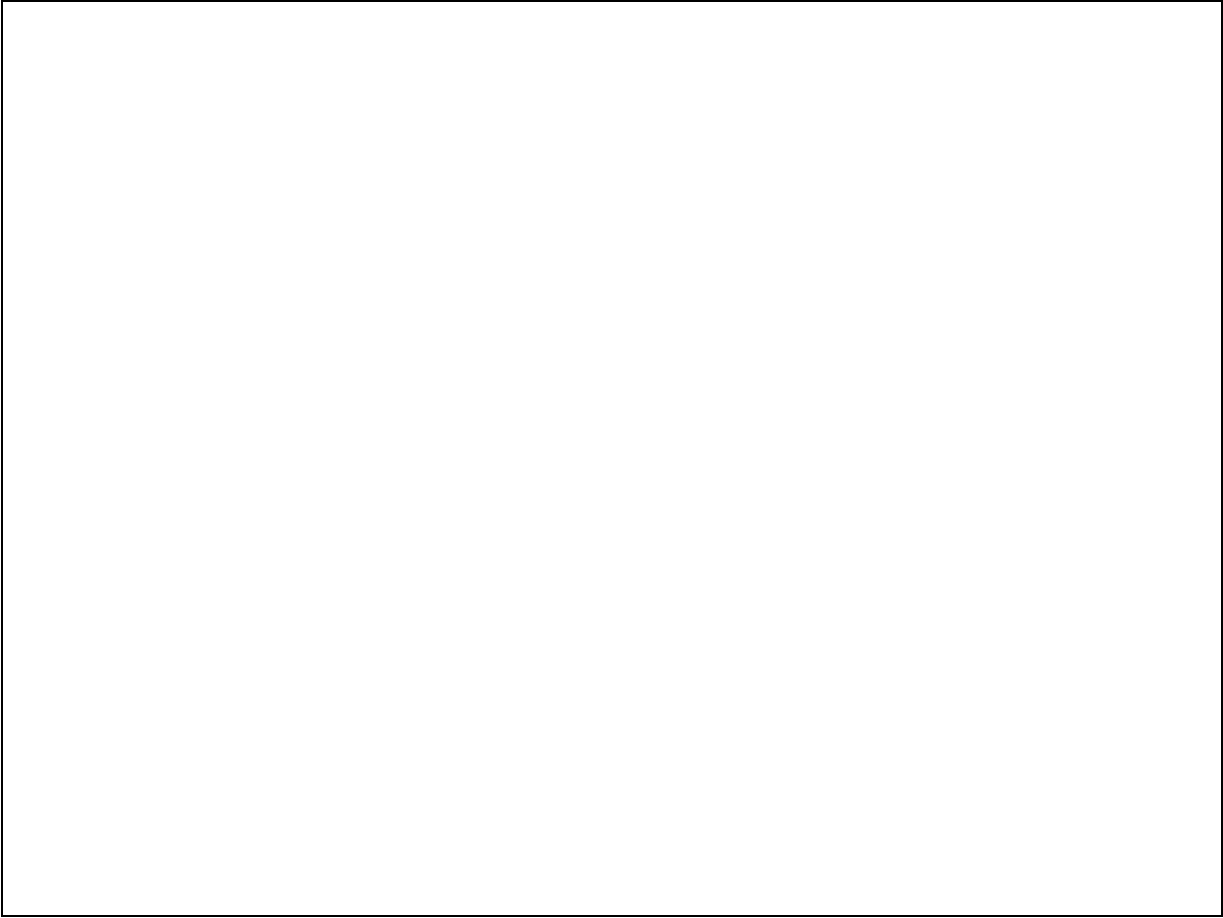


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<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i> invasive community
<b>Common name</b>	Giant-rhubarb invasive community
<b>Community code</b>	IN1B

### Vegetation

This community brings together native grassland, scrub, woodland or heath communities that have been invaded by the non-native *Gunnera tinctoria*, whose broad, spreading leaves dominate the assemblage. Other constant vascular plant species are *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and *Hedera helix*. Beneath and between the rhubarb-like leaves are frequently found *Plantago lanceolata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Trifolium repens*, *Taraxacum officinale* agg., *Potentilla erecta*, *Holcus lanatus* or *Ranunculus repens*. In scrubby or woodland stands, there may be an overtopping canopy of *Ulex europaeus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens* or *Fraxinus excelsior*. The ground layer is usually species-poor, consisting of just *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

### Ecology

This community has currently only been recorded from the Connemara National Park area where it has been noted along disturbed roadsides and in quarries, but is known to be more widespread, occurring particularly in the hyper-oceanic climate of western Mayo, western Galway and southwest Kerry. Soils are typically wet, moderately fertile and circumneutral.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

This is a straightforward community that is unlikely to cause confusion.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	77
Transitional:	1
Total:	78

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	78
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	78

#### Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	1

#### Number of hectads (records in each time period)

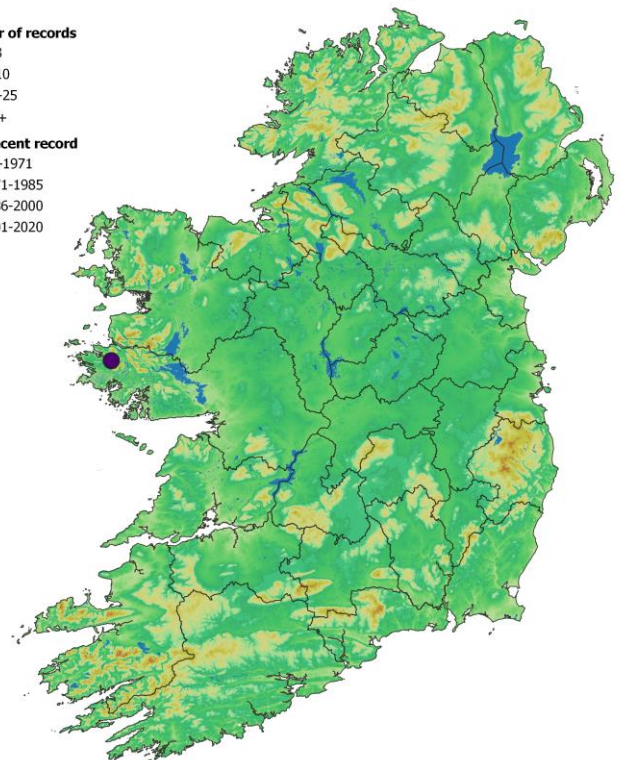
2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

**Number of records**

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

**Most recent record**

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



### Synoptic table (n = 65)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	V	5-(8)-9	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	II	3-(5)-7
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	V	3-(5)-8	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	II	3-(5)-7
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	IV	2-(5)-8	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	II	2-(5)-7
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	IV	2-(5)-9	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	II	3-(3)-5
<i>Hedera helix</i>	IV	3-(5)-7	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	III	2-(5)-7	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	II	2-(5)-7
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	III	2-(5)-7	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	II	2-(5)-8
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Crocsmia</i> × <i>crocsmiiflora</i>	II	2-(6)-8
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	II	2-(4)-5
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	III	3-(5)-7	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	II	2-(5)-5
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Poa pratensis/humilis</i>	II	2-(3)-7
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	III	2-(5)-7	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	II	3-(3)-5	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	II	2-(5)-8
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	II	2-(5)-5	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	II	2-(4)-5
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	I	2-(5)-7
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	I	2-(5)-7
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	II	2-(5)-8	<i>Pellia epiphylla</i>	I	3-(5)-7
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	I	3-(5)-5
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	II	2-(5)-7	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I	2-(5)-7

#### Affinities

GHI: GS4 Wet grassland

ZM: CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea Tx. 1937 (67.7%)

EUNIS: Not defined

NVC: MG9a *Holcus lanatus*-*Deschampsia cespitosa* grassland *Poa trivialis* sub-community (41.1%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.5 Reaction: 5.7 Wetness: 6.3 Fertility: 4.8 Salinity: 0.2

#### Conservation value

This is an invasive community, typically with very low conservation value. Species/9 m<sup>2</sup> = 17.9, n = 35.

#### Management

*Gunnera tinctoria* is listed in the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, making it an offence under Regulation 49 of that instrument to plant, disperse, allow or cause to grow this plant in the Republic of Ireland. Road works using material from infested quarries have facilitated its spread in Connemara. It can be controlled by foliar spraying or by cutting stalks and painting the stumps with herbicide.

#### Key references

Sheehy Skeffington, M., Hall, K. (2011) The ecology, distribution and invasiveness of *Gunnera* L. species in Connemara, western Ireland. *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 111B, 157-175.

**Synopsis version:** V1.0

**Synopsis date:** April 2021

**Synopsis author(s):** P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. Vegetation ascribable to IN1B *Gunnera tinctoria* invasive community, Tully, Galway  
(A. Delaney/S.Barron, July 2010)

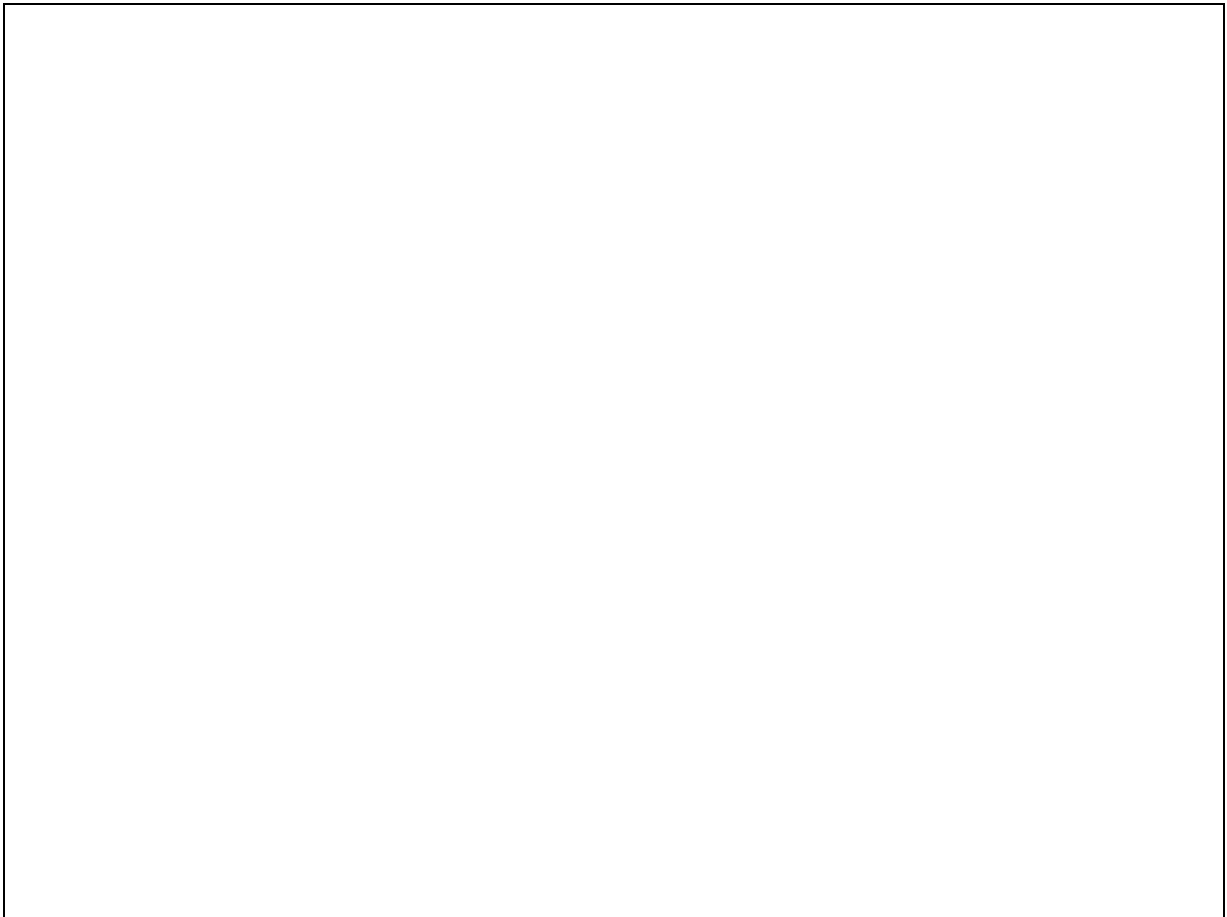


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