



Scientific name	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i> – <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> bog
Common name	White Beak-sedge – Bog Asphodel bog
Community code	BG1B

Vegetation

The main species in this rather open community are *Rhynchospora alba*, *Molinia caerulea* and *Schoenus nigricans*, accompanied by patches of *Erica tetralix*, *Narthecium ossifragum* and the wine-tipped leaves of *Eriophorum angustifolium*. The bryophyte layer is mostly composed of sphagna with *Sphagnum papillosum* constant and both *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and *Sphagnum subsecundum* agg. frequent, but dark conspicuous patches of *Campylopus atrovirens* will also be often seen. The sticky rosettes of *Drosera* spp. are also characteristic of this community with *Drosera rotundifolia* a constant species, while *Drosera intermedia* and *Drosera anglica* are frequent finds. *Menyanthes trifoliata* is occasional occurring in particularly wet areas, while *Myrica gale* may be found where there is a little groundwater flushing.

Ecology

This is mainly a community of wet depressions in lowland blanket bogs (mean altitude = 95 m, $n = 63$) occurring on acidic, oligotrophic, ombrogenous deep peats.

Sub-communities

There are two sub-communities described. The *Sphagnum subsecundum* agg. – *Eleocharis multicaulis* sub-community (BG1Bi) represents examples of this vegetation with more flushing and in which one will find species such *Carex panicea*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Juncus bulbosus* and *Anagallis tenella*, which are not encountered in the typical *Calluna vulgaris* – *Campylopus atrovirens* sub-community (BG1Bii).

Similar communities

The vegetation here is close to that of BG1A *Sphagnum cuspidatum* – *Sphagnum subsecundum* agg. bog but the cover of sphagna is not so high, *Rhynchospora alba* is more frequently present and *Molinia caerulea* and *Schoenus nigricans* are more prominent.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	415
Transitional:	49
Total:	464

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	166
1986-2000:	96
1971-1985:	11
Pre-1971:	14
Total:	287

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	24
1986-2000:	10
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	3
Total:	41

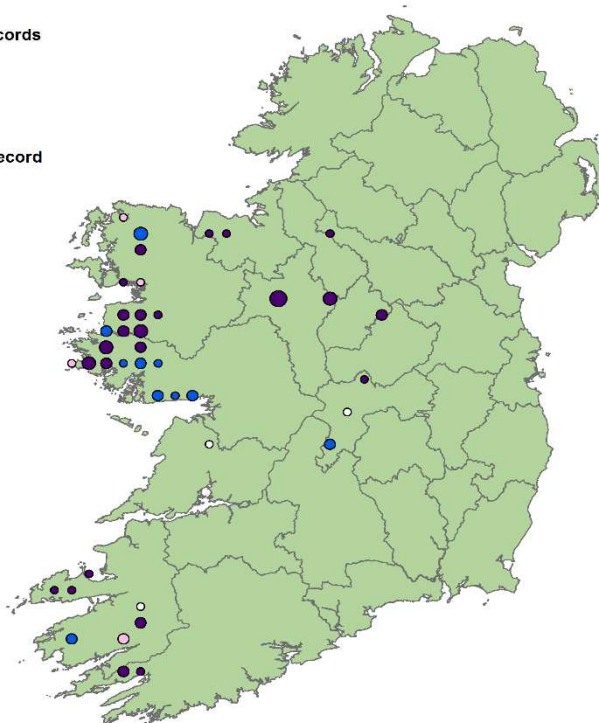
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	24
1986-2000:	17
1971-1985:	7
Pre-1971:	5

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 239)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>	II	+-(3)-7
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	V	2-(5)-8	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	V	+-(3)-7	<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	II	+-(2)-5
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	V	+-(3)-7	<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	II	+-(3)-7
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	V	+-(3)-8	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	II	+-(3)-7
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	IV	2-(5)-8	<i>Sphagnum magellanicum</i>	II	1-(3)-8
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	IV	+-(2)-5	<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	II	+-(3)-7
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	IV	+-(3)-8	<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	I	+-(2)-5
<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	III	+-(3)-7	<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	I	2-(4)-8
<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	III	+-(5)-9	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	I	+-(2)-4
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	III	+-(3)-5	<i>Carex limosa</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	III	+-(3)-7	<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	I	+-(5)-8
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	III	+-(3)-5	<i>Carex panicea</i>	I	+-(3)-7
<i>Campylopus atrovirens</i>	III	+-(3)-7	<i>Trichophorum cesp./germanicum</i>	I	+-(3)-8
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>	II	+-(2)-5	<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	II	+-(3)-7	<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	II	+-(3)-7	<i>Kurzia pauciflora</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	II	+-(3)-6	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	I	1-(3)-7
<i>Myrica gale</i>	II	1-(3)-7	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	I	1-(3)-7
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	II	+-(3)-8	<i>Cephalozia bicuspidata</i>	I	+-(2)-3

Affinities

GHI: PB3 Lowland blanket bog
 ZM: SCH-04A Scheuchzerion palustris Nordhagen et Tx. 1937
 EUNIS: D2.37 *Rhynchospora alba* quaking bogs
 NVC: M21 *Narthecium ossifragum* – *Sphagnum papillosum* valley mire (65.2%)
 Annex I: 7150 Rhynchosporion depressions

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.7 Reaction: 2.8 Wetness: 8.5 Fertility: 1.4 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

Almost all examples of this community qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 7150 Rhynchosporion depressions. This is on average a moderately species-poor community (species/4 m² = 17.5, n = 142), but supports several specialists.

Management

The main threat to the bogs supporting this vegetation is turf-cutting, either by hand or machine, and associated drainage. Some sites have also suffered from afforestation. Locally, action has been taken to address these impacts and some sites are managed strictly for conservation.

Key references

Perrin, P.M., Barron, S.J., Roche, J.R. & O’Hanrahan, B. (2014) Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 79. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: November 2017

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. BG1B *Rhynchospora alba* – *Narthecium ossifragum* bog, Glanrastel, Caha Mountains, Kerry
(J. Roche/C. Heardman, August 2014)



Photo 2. BG1B *Rhynchospora alba* – *Narthecium ossifragum* bog, Leenavesta, north of the Sheeffry Hills, Mayo
(J. Denyer/K. McNutt, October 2010)