



Scientific name	<i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Andromeda polifolia</i> bog
Common name	Cross-leaved Heath – Bog-rosemary bog
Community code	BG2B

Vegetation

This bog community usually exhibits typical hummock/hollow microtopography. It has a number of constant species but typically the most abundant vascular plant species are the dwarf shrubs *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica tetralix*. Also, usually prominent are the sedges *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* and *Rhynchospora alba*, together with *Narthecium ossifragum*. The bryophyte layer is abundant and composed chiefly of *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *Sphagnum papillosum*, *Sphagnum tenellum* and *Hypnum jutlandicum*. Also frequently occurring are conspicuous white patches of *Cladonia portentosa*, rosettes of *Drosera rotundifolia* and stems of *Andromeda polifolia*. Searching amongst the *Sphagnum*, one often finds strands of *Odontoschisma sphagni*. The suite of less frequent species is mostly composed of other bryophytes (e.g. *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Sphagnum austinii*, *Sphagnum beothuk/fuscum* and *Leucobryum glaucum*) and other lichens.

Ecology

This is primarily a community of raised bogs but occasionally of blanket bog, usually in the lowlands. It occurs on deep, acidic, ombrogenous and oligotrophic peats.

Sub-communities

No formal sub-communities have been described for this community. However, on western raised bogs *Andromeda polifolia* would be scarcer than in the midlands, while *Carex panicea*, *Campylopus atrovirens* and *Pleurozia purpurea* would be more abundant.

Similar communities

From the other main raised bog community, BG2A *Eriophorum vaginatum* – *Vaccinium oxycoccos* bog, the present community differs in having a lower frequency and abundance of *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, *Aulacomnium palustre* and *Sphagnum recurvum* agg. as well as much more frequently having a component of *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* and/or *Rhynchospora alba*. Other communities of lowland blanket bog, e.g. BG2D *Erica tetralix* – *Schoenus nigricans* bog, typically have *Schoenus nigricans*.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	446
Transitional:	49
Total:	495

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	367
1986-2000:	108
1971-1985:	7
Pre-1971:	7
Total:	489

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	16
1986-2000:	9
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	4
Total:	32

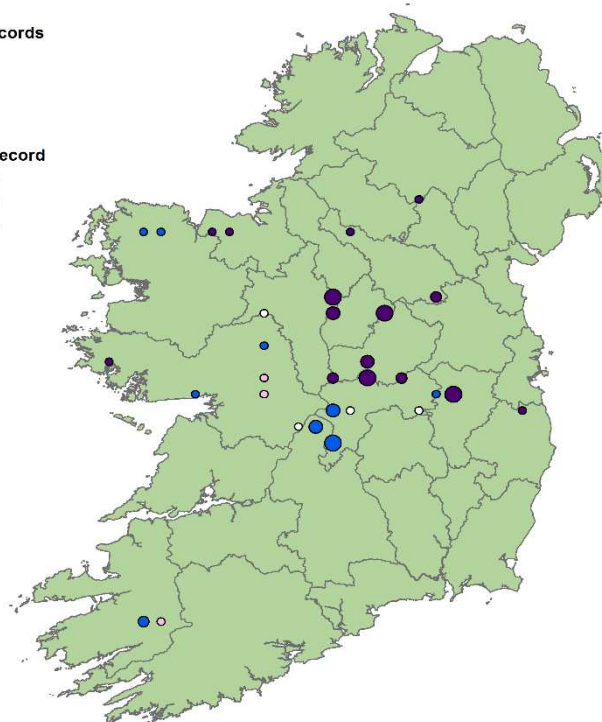
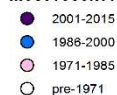
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	16
1986-2000:	10
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	4

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 166)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	V	2-(6)-9	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	II	1-(2)-3
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	V	3-(5)-8	<i>Carex panicea</i>	II	1-(4)-7
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	V	1-(3)-8	<i>Cladonia floerkeana</i>	I	2-(4)-8
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	V	2-(4)-9	<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>	IV	2-(5)-9	<i>Sphagnum austinii</i>	I	1-(4)-7
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	IV	1-(4)-9	<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	IV	+- (4)-7	<i>Campylopus atrovirens</i>	I	+- (3)-5
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	IV	+- (4)-8	<i>Drosera anglica</i>	I	1-(2)-2
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	IV	1-(3)-8	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>	I	1-(3)-7
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	IV	1-(3)-5	<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	I	+- (3)-5
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	IV	1-(4)-8	<i>Aulacomnium palustre</i>	I	1-(3)-3
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	IV	+- (3)-5	<i>Cladonia coccifera</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>	IV	+- (3)-5	<i>Cladonia furcata</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	IV	+- (4)-8	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Trichophorum cesp./germanicum</i>	IV	1-(4)-7	<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	III	1-(3)-9	<i>Cladonia crispata</i>	I	3-(3)-4
<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	II	1-(3)-7	<i>Sphagnum beothuk/fuscum</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	II	+- (3)-5	<i>Odontoschisma denudatum</i>	I	1-(1)-2
<i>Sphagnum magellanicum</i>	II	2-(4)-8	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	II	1-(3)-8	<i>Myrica gale</i>	I	1-(4)-7

Affinities

GHI: PB1 Raised bog / PB3 Lowland blanket bog / PB2 Upland blanket bog

ZM: OXY-01B Oxycocco – *Erica tetralix* Nordhagen et. Tx 1937

EUNIS: D1.11 Active, relatively undamaged raised bogs / D1.21 Hyperoceanic low-altitude blanket bogs, typically with dominant *Trichophorum*

NVC: M18a *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum papillosum* raised and blanket mire *Sphagnum magellanicum* – *Andromeda polifolia* sub-community (75.6%)

Annex I: 7110 Raised bog (active)* / 7130 Blanket bog (active)*

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.0 Reaction: 1.9 Wetness: 7.0 Fertility: 1.3 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

Most of the examples of this community qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 7120 Raised bog (active)*. However, also included here are some instances of vegetation from habitat 7130 Blanket bog (active)*. Some vegetation may technically qualify as 7120 Degraded raised bog. This is on average a moderately species-poor community (species/4 m² = 15.4, n = 97), but supports several specialists.

Management

The main threat to the raised 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

Fernández, F., Connolly, K., Crowley W., Denyer J., Duff K. & Smith G. (2014) Raised Bog Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2013. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 81. 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. BG2B *Erica tetralix* – *Andromeda polifolia* bog, Letterunshin, Ox Mountains, Sligo (J. Fuller/K. Leyden, June 2012)



Photo 2. BG2B *Erica tetralix* – *Andromeda polifolia* bog, Raheenmore Bog, Offaly (G. Smith, October 2015)