



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> – <i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i> – <i>Carex arenaria</i> duneland
<b>Common name</b>	Creeping Bent – Pointed Spear-moss – Sand Sedge duneland
<b>Community code</b>	DU3B

### Vegetation

The vascular vegetation in this dune slack community is chiefly formed of a mixture of *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Carex arenaria*, *Carex nigra*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Trifolium repens* and the circular, fleshy leaves of *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*. Beneath is a characteristically abundant layer of the pointed shoots of *Calliergonella cuspidata*. Frequently there is some *Carex flacca* or some patches of the prostrate shrub *Salix repens*.

### Ecology

This seasonally-inundated community typically occurs towards the rear of coastal duneland systems where it represents stands from the centre of dune slacks.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

The combination of abundant *Calliergonella cuspidata* and high sedge cover separates this vegetation type from most other duneland communities. Where *Salix repens* is found, DU3A *Salix repens* – *Lotus corniculatus* should also be considered, but that occurs on drier areas. *Carex arenaria* and *Salix repens* do not occur in the fens of the FE3 *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Carex nigra* group.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	74
Transitional:	16
Total:	90

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	42
1986-2000:	42
1971-1985:	5
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	90

#### Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2017:	17
1986-2000:	12
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	31

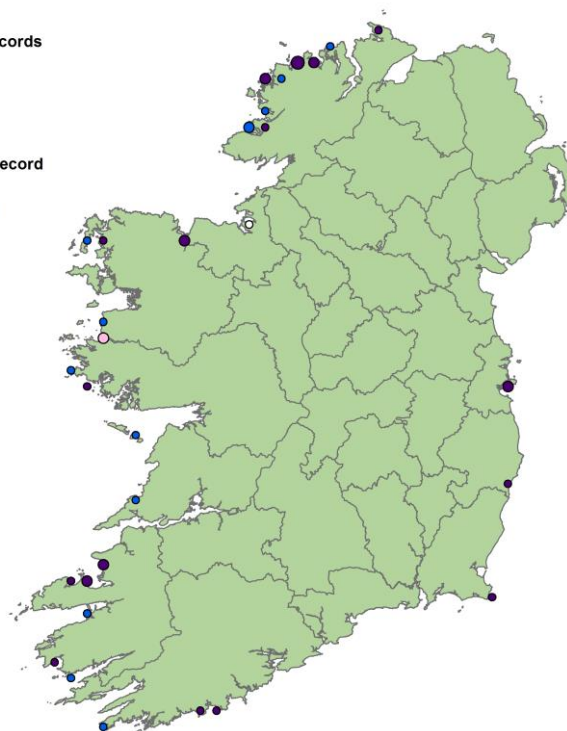
#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2017:	17
1986-2000:	19
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1

#### Number of records



#### Most recent record



### Synoptic table (n = 71)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	V	3-(7)-9	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	II	3-(3)-7
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	V	1-(5)-9	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	V	+-(4)-8	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	V	2-(4)-8	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	I	1-(3)-7
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	IV	2-(5)-9	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	I	+-(2)-4
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	IV	+-(4)-7	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	I	+-(2)-5
<i>Carex nigra</i>	IV	2-(4)-8	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	IV	+-(3)-4	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Carex flacca</i>	III	1-(4)-7	<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	III	+-(3)-7	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	III	+-(3)-5	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Carex panicea</i>	I	1-(3)-8
<i>Salix repens</i>	III	+-(5)-8	<i>Drepanocladus aduncus</i>	I	+-(1)-3
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	II	2-(4)-5	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg.	I	+-(2)-4
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	II	2-(4)-6	<i>Scleropodium purum</i>	I	+-(3)-4
<i>Galium palustre</i>	II	+-(2)-4	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	II	+-(2)-4	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	I	2-(2)-4
<i>Poa pratensis/humilis</i>	II	+-(4)-5	<i>Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	II	+-(3)-4	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	+-(2)-2
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	II	+-(3)-4	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	I	+-(2)-5

#### Affinities

GHI: CD5 Dune slacks

ZM: CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (47.9%) / IA Alnetea glutinosae (45.1%)

EUNIS: B1.83 Dune-slack fens

NVC: SD17b *Potentilla anserina* – *Carex nigra* dune-slack community *Carex flacca* sub-community (68.5%)

Annex I: 2190 Dune slacks

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.3    Reaction: 6.3    Wetness: 6.5    Fertility: 4.0    Salinity: 0.6

#### Conservation value

Most examples of this vegetation correspond to the EU HD Annex I habitat 2190 Dune slacks

#### Management

Grazing livestock have access to this community at many sites. Desiccation due to drainage is a problem in some dune slack systems. Other pressures, which may be linked to the drainage, come from agricultural intensification and recreation.

#### Key references

Delaney, A., Stout, J.C. (2018) Principles of cross congruence do not apply in naturally disturbed dune slack habitats: Implications for conservation monitoring. *Ecological Indicators* 93, 358-364.

Gaynor, K. (2007) Flora and vegetation of Irish sand dune systems. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

**Synopsis version:** V1.0

**Synopsis date:** November 2019

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



Photo 1. DU3B *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Calliergonella cuspidata* – *Carex arenaria* duneland, Castlefreke, Cork (A. Delaney, September 2011)



Photo 2. DU3B *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Calliergonella cuspidata* – *Carex arenaria* duneland, Inchydoney, Cork (A. Delaney, September 2011)