



Scientific name	<i>Carex nigra</i> – <i>Potentilla anserina</i> fen
Common name	Common Sedge – Silverweed fen
Community code	FE3B

Vegetation

This wetland community is usually dominated by a mixture of *Potentilla anserina*, *Carex nigra* and *Agrostis stolonifera*. *Ranunculus repens*, *Galium palustre* and *Mentha aquatica* are also constant species but tend not to grow abundantly here. Frequently found are *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Persicaria amphibia* and *Cardamine pratensis*. The bryophyte layer is scant with some occasional *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Ecology

This wetland community occurs in mesotrophic, mildly base-rich situations, often where there is a fluctuating water table. It has predominantly been recorded from turlough basins, but is also found in dune-slacks in coastal systems as well as more typical fens and wet grasslands.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

From the communities in this group, FE3B is distinguished mainly by the frequency of *Potentilla anserina*. In the rather species-poor GL2A *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Ranunculus repens* marsh-grassland, *Potentilla anserina*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Ranunculus repens* are also constants, but there *Carex nigra* and *Mentha aquatica* are only occasional. Confusion is possible with the SM6C *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Potentilla anserina* saltmarsh, but *Carex nigra* is seldom found there and instead halophytes such as *Juncus gerardii* or *Glaux maritima* occur.

Records and distribution

<i>Number of records (all)</i>	
Clearly assigned:	177
Transitional:	41
Total:	218

<i>Number of records (mapped)</i>	
2001-2015:	84
1986-2000:	82
1971-1985:	33
Pre-1971:	17
Total:	216

<i>Number of hectads (most recent records)</i>	
2001-2015:	8
1986-2000:	17
1971-1985:	10
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	37

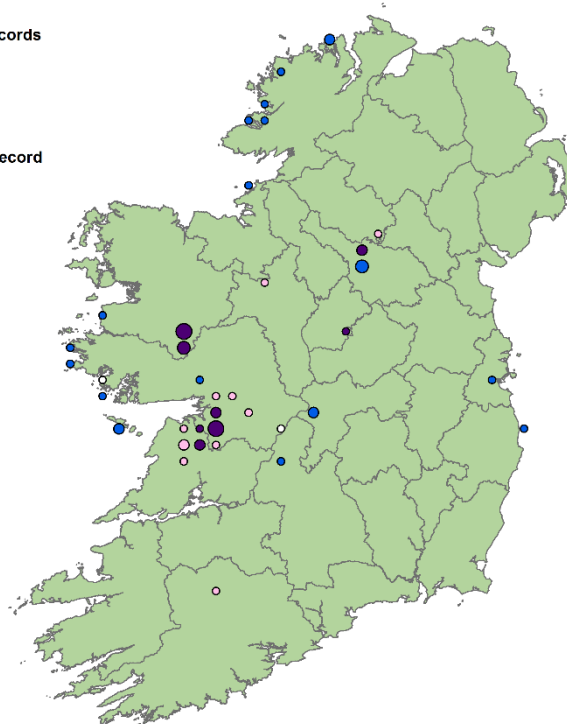
<i>Number of hectads (all mapped records)</i>	
2001-2015:	8
1986-2000:	20
1971-1985:	14
Pre-1971:	6

Number of records

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

Most recent record

- 2001-2015
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



Synoptic table (n = 156)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Carex nigra</i>	V	2-(6)-9	<i>Carex viridula</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	V	2-(7)-8	<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	V	2-(3)-7	<i>Drepanocladus aduncus</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Galium palustre</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	IV	1-(3)-5	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	III	1-(3)-6	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	III	2-(3)-7	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	III	1-(3)-8	<i>Calliergon giganteum</i>	I	1-(2)-7
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	III	1-(3)-7	<i>Plantago major</i>	I	1-(3)-3
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	III	1-(3)-3	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Juncus × surrejanus</i>	II	2-(3)-8	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	I	1-(2)-5
<i>Carex hirta</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I	2-(3)-7
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	II	1-(2)-7	<i>Apium inundatum</i>	I	2-(3)-4
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	I	2-(2)-5
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	I	1-(2)-5
<i>Carex panicea</i>	II	1-(3)-8	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I	1-(4)-5
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	I	1-(3)-7	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	I	1-(3)-7	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	I	2-(2)-3

Affinities

GHI: FL6 Turloughs / CD5 Dune slacks / PF1 Rich fen and flush

ZM: MOL-10A Potentillion anserinae Tx. 1947

EUNIS: C1.67 Turlough and lake-bottom meadows / B1.83 Dune-slack fens / E3.4422 Creeping bent flood swards

NVC: SD17d *Potentilla anserina* – *Carex nigra* dune-slack community *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* – *Ranunculus flammula* sub-community (63.1%)

Annex I: 3180 Turloughs* / 2190 Dune slack

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.2 Reaction: 6.0 Wetness: 7.3 Fertility: 4.6 Salinity: 0.7

Conservation value

This is a fairly species-rich community. This vegetation is found in turlough basins in the mid-west of Ireland where it corresponds with the priority habitat 3180 Turloughs*. Examples from coastal dune-systems may correspond with the EU HD Annex I habitat 2190 Dune slack.

Management

Many of these stands are subject to livestock grazing. The main threats are groundwater pollution, drainage, inappropriate grazing and reclamation.

Key references

Bhriain, B.N., Sheehy Skeffington, M., Gormally, M, (2002) Conservation implications of land use practices on the plant and carabid beetle communities of two turloughs in Co. Galway, Ireland. *Biological Conservation* 105, 81–92.

Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A., Conaghan, J. (1996) BIOMAR survey of Irish machairs sites. Vol. I. Site information. (No. 3), Irish Wildlife Manuals. Dúchas, The Heritage Service, Dublin, Ireland.

Moran, J. (2005) Skealaghan Turlough, Co. Mayo: implications of grazing and flooding regimes for plant and carabid beetle communities with reference to turlough farming systems in the region. National University of Ireland Galway.

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