



Scientific name	<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i> – <i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i> aquatic community
Common name	Greater Water-moss – Alternate Water-milfoil aquatic community
Community code	FW2A

Vegetation

This is a species-poor, bryophyte-dominated aquatic community, usually with only sparse cover of vascular plants. *Fontinalis antipyretica* is the only constant species and can form extensive submerged or floating patches. The most likely other bryophytes to be seen here are *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Leptodictyum riparium* and *Chiloscyphus polyanthos*. In the more nutrient-poor acidic streams of the uplands, *Fontinalis squamosa* may be found. In terms of vascular plants, the trailing stems of *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* occasionally occur within this community, while other species are rare but may include patches of *Apium nodiflorum*, *Ranunculus penicillatus* and *Potamogeton* species.

Ecology

This community occurs in a range of aquatic habitats including lagoons, turloughs and oligotrophic lakes but it most typically found in mesotrophic, mildly base-rich rivers and streams.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described

Similar communities

The FW2B *Rhynchostegium riparioides* – *Chiloscyphus polyanthos* aquatic community is also dominated by bryophytes, but has a more diverse assemblage of mosses in which its titular species are far more frequent than they are in the present community.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	112
Transitional:	14
Total:	126

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	93
1986-2000:	16
1971-1985:	5
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	115

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	62
1986-2000:	5
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	70

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

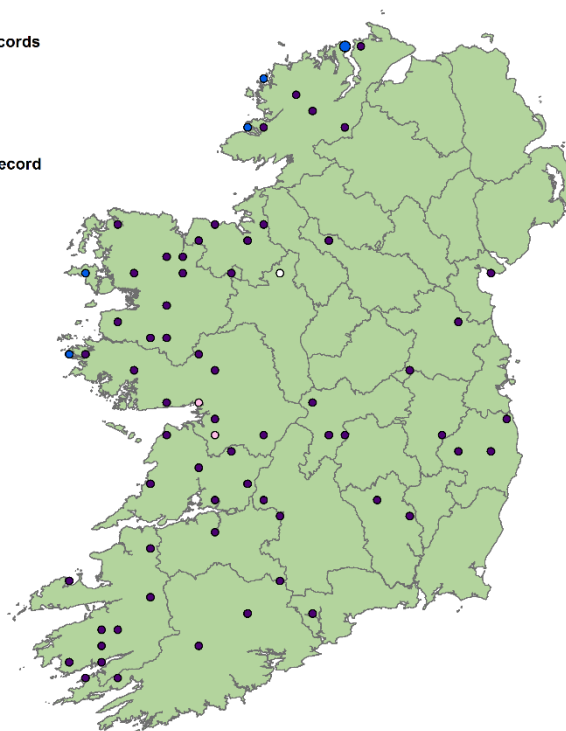
2001-2015:	62
1986-2000:	5
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	1

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 88)

Species	Frequency		Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency		Cover min (med) max
	(from I-V)				(from I-V)		
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	V		+(-)3-8	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	I		+(-)-+
<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>	II		+(-)-5	<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	I		+(-)-+
<i>Rhynchosstegium riparioides</i>	I		+(-)-3	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	I		+(-)-2
<i>Leptodictyum riparium</i>	I		+(-)1-2	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> agg.	I		1-(1)-2
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	I		+(-)-3	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I		+(-)-2
<i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i>	I		+(-)-2	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	I		+(-)-1
<i>Crococsmia × crocosmiiflora</i>	I		+(-)-2	<i>Rorippa amphibia</i>	I		2-(3)-3
<i>Chiloscyphus polyanthos</i>	I		+(-)3-4	<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	I		5-(5)-9
<i>Fontinalis squamosa</i>	I		+(-)3-5	<i>Conocephalum conicum</i>	I		+(-)-+
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	I		+(-)-2	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	I		+(-)3-3
<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	I		+(-)3-5	<i>Scapania undulata</i>	I		+(-)-+
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	I		+(-)-3	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I		2-(2)-2
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	I		3-(3)-5	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	I		2-(2)-2
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	I		+(-)-+	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	I		+(-)-+
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	I		+(-)1-5	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I		2-(2)-2
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	I		+(-)-2	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	I		2-(3)-3
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	I		+(-)-2	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	I		+(-)-+
<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	I		+(-)2-2	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	I		+(-)-+
<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	I		+(-)-2	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	I		2-(3)-3
<i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i>	I		2-(3)-5	<i>Callitriche hermaphroditica</i>	I		2-(3)-3

Affinities

GHI: FW1 Upland/eroding rivers / FW2 Lowland/eroding rivers / FL Lakes and ponds

ZM: PLA-01A Racomitron acicularis von Krustenstjerna 1945 nom. inval. ad interim

EUNIS: C2.27 Mesotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing rivers / C2.33 Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers / C1 Surface standing waters

NVC: A14 *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* (32.1%) (bryophyte-dominated communities are outside scope of the NVC)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.2 Reaction: 5.9 Wetness: 11.3 Fertility: 4.9 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

This is a species-poor community of relatively low intrinsic conservation value. One exception is that *Najas flexilis*, a low frequency associate plants, is an EU HD Annex II species.

Management

This community has no specific management. It may be adversely affected by eutrophication, siltation and river engineering including dredging and canalisation.

Key references

Weekes, L., Kaćki, Z., FitzPatrick, Ú., Kelly, F., Matson, R., Kelly-Quinn, M. (2018) An Irish national vegetation classification system for aquatic river macrophytes. *Applied Vegetation Science* 21, 322–340.

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