



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i> – <i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> agg. aquatic community
<b>Common name</b>	Fool's-water-cress – Watercress aquatic community
<b>Community code</b>	FW2E

### Vegetation

This is a rather variable community of watercourses in which a variety of species can dominate. However, *Apium nodiflorum* and *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* agg. are constants here and lend a strong forb element to the rather diverse marginal/emergent vegetation which also frequently includes *Phalaris arundinacea*, and occasionally *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Menta aquatica*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Solanum dulcamara* and *Sparganium emersum*. *Ranunculus penicillatus* is a frequent species of the channel which can dominate. Other floating plants include *Glyceria fluitans*, *Lemna minor*, *Callitriche stagnalis* and *Callitriche platycarpa*. The bryophyte element here usually consists of *Leptodictyum riparium*, *Fontinalis antipyretica* and *Rhynchostegium riparioides*.

### Ecology

This is a community typical of fast-flowing rivers and streams in the lowlands, with fairly base-rich and nutrient enriched waters.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

### Similar communities

This community is related to both FW2C and FW2D. It differs from both in its greater component of marginal and emergent vegetation, particularly the abundance of *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* agg., and its lower frequency of *Ranunculus penicillatus*.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	110
Transitional:	61
Total:	171

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	102
1986-2000:	49
1971-1985:	11
Pre-1971:	6
Total:	168

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

2001-2015:	78
1986-2000:	22
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	3
Total:	107

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

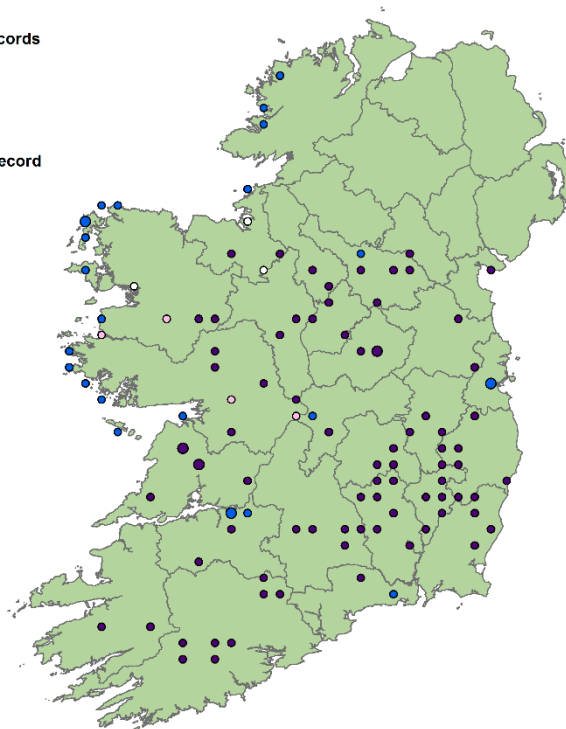
2001-2015:	78
1986-2000:	23
1971-1985:	6
Pre-1971:	4

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

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



### Synoptic table (n = 93)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	IV	+-(3)-9	<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> agg.	IV	+-(3)-10	<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	I	+-(2)-5
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	III	+-(3)-8	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	I	+-(3)-7
<i>Leptodictyum riparium</i>	III	+-(3)-8	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	I	+-(3)-8
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	III	+-(3)-7	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i>	III	+-(5)-9	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	I	+-(2)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	II	+-(3)-7	<i>Conocephalum conicum</i>	I	+-(3)-3
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	I	+-(3)-6
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	II	+-(3)-7	<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	I	+-(1)-4
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Pohlia melanodon</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Lemna minor</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	II	+-(3)-4	<i>Brachythecium rivulare</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	II	+-(3)-7	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	II	+-(3)-3	<i>Brachythecium plumosum</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Chiloscyphus polyanthos</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Callitriche obtusangula</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Sparganium emersum</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Fissidens crassipes</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Callitriche platycarpa</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Cinclidotus fontinaloides</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Rhynchosstegium riparioides</i>	II	+-(3)-4	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	I	+-(+)-3

#### Affinities

GHI: FW2 Lowland/depositing rivers

ZM: PHR-05A Glycerio-Sparganium Br.-Bl. et Sissingh in Boer 1942

EUNIS: C3.11 Beds of small helophytes of fast-flowing waters

NVC: S14 *Sparganium erectum* swamp (41.3%) (but close affinity with S23 Other water-margin vegetation)

Annex I: 3260 Floating river vegetation

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.8      Reaction: 6.9      Wetness: 10.1      Fertility: 6.1      Salinity: 0.2

#### Conservation value

Almost all examples of this community with a relative abundance of crowfoots (*Ranunculus* spp. subgenus *Batrachion*) correspond with the EU HD Annex I habitat 3260 Floating river vegetation.

#### Management

This community may be affected by eutrophication, river engineering including dredging and canalisation, and trampling from livestock with access to the bankside.

#### Key references

Weekes, L., Kaçki, 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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