

Scientific name	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i> – <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i> grassland
Common name	Sharp-flowered Rush – Springy Turf-moss grassland
Community code	GL1E

Vegetation

The sward of this wet grassland community is comprised mainly of *Holcus lanatus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Juncus effusus* and *Cynosurus cristatus* (mean graminoid height = 36.5 cm, $n = 149$). The forb component is low growing (mean forb height = 15.6 cm, $n = 149$) and consists mostly of *Trifolium repens*, *Ranunculus acris*, *R. repens* and *R. flammula*, with *Cardamine pratensis*, *Galium palustre*, *Prunella vulgaris* and *Cirsium palustre* also frequent. The bryophyte layer is quite distinctive, with *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* being abundant and sometimes forming a carpet with *Calliergonella cuspidata* and *Brachythecium rutabulum*.

Ecology

The *Juncus acutiflorus* – *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* grassland is found on wet, rather acidic peaty gleys (mean organic content = 29.9%, $n = 80$) of rather low fertility. It is a lowland farmland community of sloping ground (mean altitude = 100 m, $n = 149$; mean slope = 4.6°, $n = 149$).

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described for this community.

Similar communities

This grassland is more species-rich and less rank than the other main *Juncus acutiflorus* sward, community GL1A, and also differs in that small sedges are more frequent in the present community, mainly *Carex nigra* and *C. panicea*. It differs from the similar GL4D *Agrostis canina/vinealis* – *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, in that indicators of upland dry-humid grassland, such as *Potentilla erecta*, *Hylocomium splendens* and *Luzula multiflora*, are less frequent, whilst marsh plants such as *Galium palustre*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Ranunculus flammula* and *Ranunculus repens* are more frequent.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	284
Transitional:	76
Total:	360

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	218
1986-2000:	4
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	43
Total:	269

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	110
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	14
Total:	127

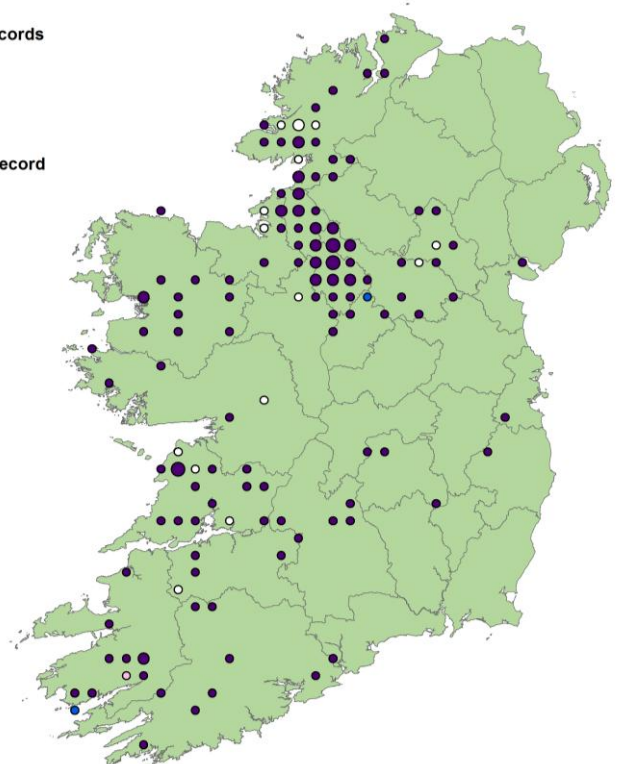
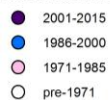
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	110
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	22

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 244)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	V	2-(4)-8	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	III	+- (2)-5
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	V	2-(5)-7	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	III	+- (2)-5
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	V	2-(6)-9	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	III	+- (3)-7
<i>Rhytidadelphus squarrosus</i>	V	+- (5)-10	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	III	+- (2)-3
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	V	+- (4)-9	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	III	1-(3)-7
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	V	+- (3)-9	<i>Carex leporina</i>	II	+- (3)-6
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	V	+- (3)-8	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	II	+- (2)-7
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	IV	+- (3)-8	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	II	+- (2)-7
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	IV	2-(4)-9	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	II	+- (3)-5
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	IV	+- (3)-7	<i>Carex echinata</i>	II	+- (3)-7
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	IV	+- (2)-7	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	II	+- (3)-6
<i>Agrostis canina / vinealis</i>	III	2-(5)-8	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	II	+- (2)-5
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	III	+- (2)-7	<i>Carex flacca</i>	II	+- (3)-7
<i>Carex nigra</i>	III	+- (3)-8	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	II	+- (2)-5
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	III	+- (2)-5	<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>	II	+- (2)-8
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	III	+- (3)-8	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	II	+- (2)-5
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	III	+- (3)-7	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	II	+- (2)-5
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	III	+- (2)-5	<i>Scleropodium purum</i>	II	+- (2)-7
<i>Galium palustre</i>	III	+- (2)-5	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	II	+- (3)-7
<i>Carex panicea</i>	III	+- (3)-7	<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	II	+- (2)-5

Affinities

GHI: GS4 Wet grassland (98.0%) (n = 149)

ZM: Juncion acutiflori

EUNIS: E3.42 *Juncus acutiflorus* meadows

NVC: M23a *Juncus effusus/acutiflorus-Galium palustre* rush-pasture *Juncus acutiflorus* sub-community (60.6%)

Annex I: 6410 *Molinia* meadows (14.8%) (n = 149)

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.1 Reaction: 5.0 Wetness: 6.5 Fertility: 3.7 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

This is a fairly species-rich grassland community (species/4 m² = 26.9, n = 149) of which a low proportion of examples correspond with EU HD Annex I habitat 6410 *Molinia* meadows.

Management

These swards are managed as rough grazing land (typically for cattle). The main threats to these grasslands include improvement, abandonment and afforestation.

Key references

O'Neill, F.H., Martin, J.R., Devaney, F.M. & Perrin, P.M. (2013) The Irish Semi-natural Grasslands Survey 2007-2012. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 78. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: December 2016

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. GL1E *Juncus acutiflorus* – *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* grassland, Cornaroy, Leitrim
(A. Delaney/F. O'Neill/E. Reeves, September 2009)



Photo 2. GL1E *Juncus acutiflorus* – *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* grassland, Roes, Donegal (M. O'Neill/S. Thomas, July 2010)