



Scientific name	<i>Racomitrium fasciculare</i> – <i>Festuca vivipara</i> scree community
Common name	Green Mountain Fringe-moss – Viviparous Fescue scree community
Community code	RH2B

Vegetation

The main components of this rocky habitat community are mostly bryophytes and grasses. *Festuca vivipara*, *Agrostis capillaris* and *Galium saxatile* are the constant vascular plants, with tufts of *Anthoxanthum odoratum* frequent. Crevices in the rocks occasionally support rosettes of *Saxifraga spathularis* and in shady, sheltered spots *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* may be found. The bryophyte layer comprises mostly hoary patches of *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and the greener patches of *Racomitrium fasciculare*, but also usually includes *Polytrichum commune* and *Breutelia chrysocoma* and frequently *Diplophyllum albicans* and *Pleurozia purpurea*.

Ecology

This is a community of sparsely vegetated siliceous scree slopes of the high uplands (mean cover bare rock = 71%, $n = 101$; mean altitude = 649 m, $n = 101$; mean slope = 52°, $n = 101$). Soils, where they accumulate, are skeletal (mean soil depth = 1.1 cm, $n = 101$). Conditions are acidic, moist and infertile.

Sub-communities

No formal sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

Racomitrium fasciculare and *Breutelia chrysocoma* are much less frequent in the RH2C *Racomitrium lanuginosum* – *Hypnum jutlandicum* scree community, which in general has more cover from dry heath species than RH2B.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	101
Transitional:	7
Total:	108

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	108
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	108

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	7
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	7

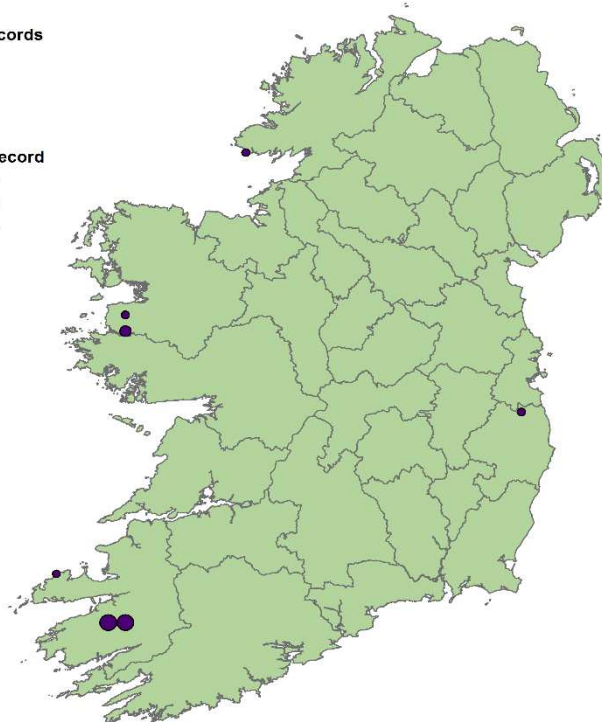
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2015:	7
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	7

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 101)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	V	+- (3)-7	<i>Epilobium brunnescens</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	V	2-(3)-5	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	I	1-(3)-3
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	V	1-(3)-5	<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Racomitrium fasciculare</i>	V	1-(2)-3	<i>Scapania gracilis</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	IV	+- (2)-4	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	IV	1-(3)-4	<i>Huperzia selago</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Jasione montana</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Breutelia chrysocoma</i>	IV	1-(3)-4	<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	III	+- (2)-3	<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	III	2-(3)-3	<i>Nardus stricta</i>	I	3-(4)-4
<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Oligotrichum hercynicum</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	I	+- (2)-2
<i>Saxifraga spathularis</i>	II	1-(3)-4	<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	I	2-(2)-4
<i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i>	II	+- (2)-3	<i>Tritomaria quinquedentata</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	II	+- (2)-4	<i>Pellia epiphylla</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Pogonatum urnigerum</i>	I	+- (3)-4	<i>Marsupella emarginata</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	I	2-(3)-4	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	I	+- (3)-3
<i>Herbertus aduncus</i>	I	2-(3)-4	<i>Viola riviniana/reichenbachiana</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	I	2-(3)-3	<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	I	2-(2)-2

Affinities

GHI: ER3 Siliceous scree and loose rock
 ZM: THL-06B Androsacion alpinae Br.-Bl. et Jenny 1926
 EUNIS: H2.1 Cold siliceous screes
 NVC: U16b *Luzula sylvatica* – *Vaccinium myrtillus* tall herb community *Anthoxanthum odoratum* – *Festuca ovina* sub-community (38.1%)
 Annex I:8220 Siliceous scree

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.7 Reaction: 3.0 Wetness: 5.4 Fertility: 2.3 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

Examples of this community qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 8110 Siliceous scree.

Management

Some more accessible areas of this vegetation may be sheep-grazed but it is essentially unmanaged.

Key references

Perrin, P.M., Barron, S.J., Roche, J.R. & O’Hanrahan, B. (2014) Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 79. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: November 2017

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. RH2B *Racomitrium fasciculare* – *Festuca vivipara* scree community, Tawnyinlough, Ben Creggan, Mayo
(P. Perrin/R. Hodd, October 2010)



Photo 2. RH2B *Racomitrium fasciculare* – *Festuca vivipara* scree community, Laghta Oughter, Sheeffry Hills, Mayo
(P. Perrin/J. Denyer, September 2010)