

***Pinus rigida* / *Vaccinium* spp. - *Gaylussacia baccata* Woodland**

COMMON NAME Pitch Pine / Blueberry species - Black Huckleberry Woodland
SYNONYM Pitch Pine / Blueberry spp. - Huckleberry Woodland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Woodland (II)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Evergreen woodland (II.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (II.A.4.N)
FORMATION Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.N.a)
ALLIANCE PINUS RIGIDA WOODLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Terrestrial

RANGE

Acadia National Park

This association was found only on Long island in Acadia NP.

Globally

This association occurs in Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Ontario, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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Unlike standard pitch pine woodlands, which occur on exposed bedrock of crests or upper slopes, these woodlands occur on rocky/sandy soils and gentle lower slopes. Elevation is about 70 m, and aspect northeast. The substrate is rock interspersed with soil pockets. Soil varies from sandy to peaty, 10 - 12 cm in depth, with associated variations in drainage; pH is around 5.0. No evidence of fire was found in the two stands sampled.

Globally

This association is a pitch pine - heath barren of nutrient-poor, dry sandy soils occurring at low elevations in New England and adjacent Canada.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Acadia National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree Canopy	<i>Pinus rigida</i> , <i>Picea rubens</i> , <i>Pinus strobus</i> , <i>Acer rubrum</i>
Dwarf Shrub	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> , <i>Vaccinium angustifolia</i> , <i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Melampyrum lineare</i>
Non-vascular	<i>Cladina sylvatica</i> , <i>Dicranum polysetum</i> , <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> , <i>Cladonia pyxidata</i> , <i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree Canopy	<i>Pinus rigida</i>
Dwarf Shrub	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> , <i>V. pallidum</i> , <i>V. myrtilloides</i> , <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> , <i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> , <i>Carex pensylvanica</i> , <i>Gaultheria procumbens</i> , <i>Aralia nudicaulis</i> , <i>Maianthemum canadense</i> , <i>Melampyrum lineare</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

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Picea rubens an important canopy associate (> 30% RD); *Cladina sylvatica*; absence of *Pinus rigida* in the herb layer.

Globally

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Acadia National Park

These woodlands consist of *Pinus rigida* and *Picea rubens* forming an open canopy (about 40%) over a dense shrub layer of *Gaylussacia baccata*, *Vaccinium angustifolium*, and *Kalmia angustifolia*, with almost nothing in between. The herb layer is sparse; *Melampyrum lineare* is indicative (but occurs in some standard pitch pine woodlands as well). The bryoid layer is well developed and dominated by *Cladina sylvatica* and *Dicranum polysetum*; *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Cladonia pyxidata*, and *Leucobryum glaucum* are occasional associates.

The basal area ranged from 31 - 36 m²/ha and canopy heights were 8 - 10 m.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Acadia National Park

Globally

The open canopy is dominated by *Pinus rigida* with a variable mixture of associates, including *Pinus strobus* or *Populus grandidentata*. In the northern part of the range, *Pinus banksiana* or *Picea rubens* may also be present. The tall-shrub layer is absent, although a few scrub oaks (*Quercus ilicifolia*, *Quercus prinoides*) may be present. The well-developed heath layer is comprised largely of dwarf-shrubs, including *Vaccinium angustifolium*, *Vaccinium pallidum*, *Vaccinium myrtilloides*, *Gaylussacia baccata*, and *Kalmia angustifolia*. The herbaceous layer is of variable cover and often includes *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Carex pensylvanica*, *Gaultheria procumbens*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Maianthemum canadense*, *Melampyrum lineare*, *Fragaria virginiana*, and *Cypripedium acaule*. The bryophyte layer is of variable cover and is characterized by *Cladonia sylvatica*, *Dicranum polysetum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Cladonia pyxidata*, and *Leucobryum glaucum*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G5.

DATABASE CODE CEGL005046

COMMENTS

Acadia National Park

A cored pitch pine from this site was aged at 240+ yr.

Closely related to standard pitch pine woodlands, but differentiated by its setting on soils rather than on rock, the co-dominance of *Picea rubens*, and the extensive bryoid layer.

Globally