

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Quercus laurifolia / Acer rubrum / Saururus cernuus Forest

COMMON NAME Bald-cypress - Green Ash - Diamondleaf Oak / Red Maple / Lizard's Tail Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.e.)

ALLIANCE *Taxodium distichum - Nyssa (aquatica, biflora, ogeche)* Seasonally Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Taxodium distichum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Quercus laurifolia / Acer rubrum / Saururus cernuus Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment, but this community is also known from North Carolina.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs in relatively drier sloughs, as transitional areas between sloughs and bottomland hardwood forests, and on alluvial flats relatively close to the Congaree River, and particularly in the Cedar Creek drainage. This forest occurs along larger creeks and meanders of former creeks.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Taxodium distichum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Quercus laurifolia / Acer rubrum / Saururus cernuus Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This type occurs in the Monument in sloughs and on alluvial flats on soils with a percentage of silt.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum, Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Acer rubrum</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Global diagnostic species are the same as the Monument-specific species below.

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Taxodium distichum, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Acer rubrum, Saururus cernuus, Quercus laurifolia, Pilea pumila, Asclepias perennis, Celtis laevigata, Liquidambar styraciflua

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Quercus laurifolia / Acer rubrum / Saururus cernuus Forest is dominated by *Taxodium distichum* and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. *Quercus laurifolia, Quercus lyrata, Acer rubrum, Liquidambar styraciflua, Panera aquatica,* and *Fraxinus caroliniana* are usually present, as are other tree species of generally higher bottomland communities, including *Celtis laevigata, Ulmus americana, Platanus occidentalis,* and *Acer negundo*. The canopy is closed, and the subcanopy layer generally is well-developed. The shrub layer is sparse, and the herbaceous layer ranges from sparse to moderately dense depending upon duration of flooding. *Acer rubrum* is the strong dominant in the subcanopy with *Planera aquatica, Carpinus caroliniana, Ulmus alata, Ilex decidua,* and *Celtis laevigata* typical in this stratum as well. *Itea virginica* and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* are typical in the shrub layer. A variety of vines are possible within occurrences of this community. These include *Vitis rotundifolia, Vitis aestivalis, Bignonia capreolata, Campsis radicans, Berchemia scandens, Trachelospermum difforme,* and *Mikania scandens*. The most commonly occurring herbs are *Asclepias perennis, Boehmeria cylindrica, Pilea pumila, Saururus cernuus, Commelina virginica, Justicia ovata, Phanopyrum gymnocarpum, Carex lupulina, Leersia lenticularis, Ludwigia alternifolia,* and *Chasmanthium latifolium*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4

RANK JUSTIFICATION This community is relatively globally secure.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007719

COMMENTS

REFERENCES