

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum - Nyssa aquatica - Nyssa biflora / Fraxinus caroliniana / Itea virginica Forest

COMMON NAME Bald-cypress - Water Tupelo - Swamp Tupelo / Water Ash / Virginia-willow 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 Semipermanently flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.f.)

ALLIANCE *Nyssa aquatica - (Taxodium distichum)* Semipermanently Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Taxodium distichum - Nyssa aquatica - Nyssa biflora / Fraxinus caroliniana / Itea virginica Forest is common along small rivers that arise in the Atlantic Coastal Plain (blackwater rivers) from Virginia to northern Florida.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs on alluvial flats and in isolated sloughs associated with blackwater streams in the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This type covers examples along Coastal Plain streams in regions of fine-textured soils and examples in somewhat isolated basins of brownwater floodplains, where *Nyssa aquatica* and *Nyssa biflora* are both important components of the canopy. Soils are semipermanently flooded, and probability of annual flooding is 100 percent

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This type occurs in the park on Chastain loam soils on alluvial flats and sloughs associated with Tom's Creek and Cedar Creek.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica, Nyssa biflora</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana, Acer rubrum</i>

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica, Nyssa biflora</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana, Acer rubrum</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Phanopyrum gymnocarpum</i>

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DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Taxodium distichum, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Itea virginica*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Fraxinus caroliniana*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This type covers very wet forests that are flooded by river overbank flow for long periods and are dominated by combinations of *Nyssa aquatica*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Taxodium distichum*, and occasionally *Taxodium ascendens*, which account for at least 75 percent of the canopy cover. Other bottomland species often found in this community include *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, and *Quercus laurifolia*. Shrubs and herbs are limited to tree bases and higher spots within occurrences.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is dominated by *Taxodium distichum*, *Nyssa biflora*, and *Nyssa aquatica*. The subcanopy is dominated by *Fraxinus caroliniana* and *Acer rubrum*. Additional woody species which commonly occur are *Quercus laurifolia*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ilex decidua*, and *Planera aquatica*. The shrub layer generally is open, and *Itea virginica* is common. The herbaceous layer is very sparse and limited to higher areas and tree bases. The dominant species in this stratum is *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*; other typical species include *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Saururus cernuus*, *Justicia ovata*, *Carex lupulina*, *Hydrocotyle verticillata*, *Mikania scandens*, *Spiranthes cernua*, *Asclepias perennis*, *Commelina virginica*, *Leersia lenticularis*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL007432

COMMENTS

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Relatively the same overstory composition occurs in areas that are transitional from *Nyssa biflora*-dominated seeps to *Taxodium distichum* - *Nyssa aquatica* / *Fraxinus caroliniana* Forest. The types can be distinguished by their location.

REFERENCES