

Taxodium distichum - Nyssa aquatica / Fraxinus caroliniana Forest

COMMON NAME Bald-cypress - Water Tupelo / Water Ash 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

This community occurs on the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain from southeastern Virginia to southern Georgia, and possibly on the lower Gulf Coastal Plain from approximately Tallahassee to southeastern Texas, excluding the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is common throughout the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community occurs in oxbow lakes and ponds, on low, wet flats and sloughs, and in swales and backswamps. It occurs only on semipermanently flooded soils.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs throughout the park in sloughs and on alluvial flats.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> , <i>Nyssa aquatica</i> , <i>Fraxinus profunda</i> , <i>Populus heterophylla</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i> , <i>Planera aquatica</i>

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> , <i>Nyssa aquatica</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Planera aquatica</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Taxodium distichum, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Fraxinus profunda*, *Populus heterophylla*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Planera aquatica*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community of brownwater rivers is characterized by a dense canopy composed almost exclusively of straight, tall individuals of *Taxodium distichum* and *Nyssa aquatica* with a sparse to moderate subcanopy and depauperate shrub and herb layers. Occasional individuals of several species (e.g. *Populus heterophylla*, *Salix nigra*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Fraxinus profunda*, *Carya aquatica*, *Quercus lyrata*) are possible in the canopy or subcanopy.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is dominated by *Taxodium distichum* and *Nyssa aquatica*. The subcanopy is dominated by *Planera aquatica*, with *Fraxinus caroliniana* and *Acer rubrum* common. Additional woody species which may occur are *Quercus lyrata*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Populus heterophylla*, *Ulmus americana*, and others. The herbaceous layer is very sparse, and typical species include *Saururus cernuus*, *Proserpinaca pectinata*, *Asclepias perennis*, *Commelina virginica*, *Leersia lenticularis*, and *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*. Some examples of this community are being degraded by rapid siltation. These occurrences will not have the typical species composition and may be difficult to identify. Often they will have large, dead canopy trees as well as species typical of levees such as *Platanus occidentalis*, *Celtis laevigata*, and *Acer negundo*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G5?

RANK JUSTIFICATION This is a fairly common community type globally.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007431

COMMENTS

REFERENCES