

**IV.A.1.N.g.3. VACCINIUM MACROCARPON SATURATED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE**

Large Cranberry Saturated Dwarf-shrubland Alliance

Physiognomic Class Dwarf-Shrubland (IV.)  
Physiognomic Subclass Evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.)  
Physiognomic Group Needle-leaved or microphyllus evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.1.)  
Physiognomic Subgroup Natural/Semi-natural (IV.A.1.N.)  
Formation Saturated needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.1.N.g.)

**Alliance VACCINIUM MACROCARPON SATURATED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (IV.A.1.N.g.3.)**

Vaccinium macrocarpon - Myrica pensylvanica Dwarf-shrubland

Large Cranberry / Northern Bayberry Dwarf-shrubland

*Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale*

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: PALUSTRINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This interdunal swale association occurs in small patches behind the foredunes of the Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

***Globally***

This community is confined to major dune systems of the northeastern coast. The greatest number of occurrences are found in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, with occasional occurrences in Rhode Island and Delaware. There are no known occurrences in Connecticut.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in small seasonally flooded depressions and swales behind primary dunes. The substrate is characterized by shallow peat over sand.

***Globally***

This association occurs in seasonally flooded wetland occurring within low swales behind sand dunes of major dune systems of the northeastern coast. The soil is often dry on the surface late in the growing season. Soils may be sand or with a shallow peat or organic layer overlying sand.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Dwarf-shrub	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i> , <i>V. corymbosum</i> , <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Cladium mariscoides</i> , <i>Juncus canadensis</i> , <i>Scirpus pungens</i> , <i>Rhynchospora</i> spp.

***Globally***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Dwarf-shrub	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i> , <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Juncus canadensis</i> , <i>Cladium mariscoides</i> , and/or <i>Scirpus pungens</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Vaccinium macrocarpon*, *Aronia melanocarpa*, *Cladium mariscoides*, *Juncus canadensis*, *Scirpus pungens*

***Globally***

*Vaccinium macrocarpon*, *Myrica pensylvanica*, *Cladium mariscoides*, *Juncus* spp.

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Fire Island National Seashore**

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VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

**Fire Island National Seashore**

This maritime interdunal swale community is variable in species composition but is characterized by *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, which grows as a prostrate dwarf shrub below the herbaceous layer. In some swales, *Vaccinium macrocarpon* is present only at low cover. Scattered taller shrubs may be present, including most commonly *Vaccinium corymbosum* and *Aronia melanocarpa*. The herbaceous layer is dense with *Cladium mariscoides*, *Juncus canadensis*, *Scirpus pungens*, and *Rhynchospora* spp. also common. Other herbaceous associates may include *Rhynchospora capitellata*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Lycopodium inundatum*, *Eleocharis olivacea*, *Xyris torta*, *Triadenum canadense*, *Juncus dichotomus*, and *Panicum virgatum*. One occurrence on Fire Island is dominated by *Typha angustifolia*. *Sphagnum* species are usually present, but with low overall percent cover. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) call this vegetation "wet poor fen". In addition to *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, other associates include *Lycopodium appressum*, *Carex howei* (at Smokey Hollow Bog), *Eleocharis tenuis*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Polygala cruciata*, *Hypericum boreale*, *Hypericum canadense*, and *Utricularia subulata*. Two *Sphagnum* species listed by the authors are *Sphagnum rubellum* and *Sphagnum compactum*.

**Globally**

This maritime community is a small-patch seasonally flooded wetland occurring within low swales behind sand dunes of major dune systems of the northeastern coast. *Vaccinium macrocarpon* is generally dominant, but a number of rushes, sedges, grasses, and forbs co-occur and often obscure the low-growing *Vaccinium macrocarpon*. *Myrica pensylvanica*, although a minor component of the vegetation and is generally restricted to the wetland edge, characterizes this community as coastal. Associated species include *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, *Juncus canadensis*, *Juncus greenii*, *Juncus pelocarpus*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Lycopodiella inundata* (= *Lycopodium inundatum*), *Cladium mariscoides*, *Scirpus pungens*, *Osmunda regalis*, *Spartina patens*, *Xyris torta*, *Calopogon tuberosus*, *Viola lanceolata*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Bartonia virginica*.

COMMENTS:

**Fire Island National Seashore**

**Globally**

**States/Provinces:**

DE:S?, MA:S?, MD?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK:

G2 (97-10-22)

DATABASE CODE:

CEGL006141

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 53, 16, 38, 40, 52

REFERENCES:

Benedict 1977a  
Bowman 2000  
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989  
Conard 1935  
Johnson 1981  
Johnson 1985  
Martin 1959b  
McAvoy and Clancy 1994  
Moul 1969