

III.B.2.N.h.1. BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

Groundsel-tree - Maritime Marsh-elder Tidal Shrubland Alliance

Physiognomic Class Shrubland (III.)
Physiognomic Subclass Deciduous shrubland (III.B.)
Physiognomic Group Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.)
Physiognomic Subgroup Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.)
Formation Tidal cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.h.)

Alliance BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (III.B.2.N.h.1)

Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens / Panicum virgatum Shrubland
Groundsel-tree - Maritime Marsh-elder / Switchgrass Shrubland

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

Fire Island National Seashore

This association occurs on the landward edges of salt marshes on the bay side of Fire Island.

Globally

This occurs along the Atlantic coast from Delaware (or possibly Virginia) north to Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

Fire Island National Seashore

This association occurs within the ecotone between high salt marsh and transitional maritime forest. The substrate is moist loam over sand that receives periodic tidal flooding.

Globally

This association occurs on the Atlantic coast in the ecotone of high salt marsh and upland. The substrate is characterized by peat overtopping sand or sand and gravel.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

Fire Island National Seashore

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> , <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Teucrium canadense</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Iva frutescens</i> , <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Spartina patens</i> , <i>Panicum virgatum</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

Fire Island National Seashore

Baccharis halimifolia

Globally

Iva frutescens, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Panicum virgatum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

Fire Island National Seashore

This salt shrubland community is dominated by *Baccharis halimifolia*, which forms dense cover. The herbaceous layer is variable in species composition and cover and contains *Teucrium canadense*, *Solidago sempervirens*, and *Phragmites australis*. Dowhan and Rozsa note that *Iva frutescens* is abundant in the “upland thicket of salt marshes”, which is presumably synonymous with this association. The authors also

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Fire Island National Seashore

note that *Cuscuta compacta* frequently parasitizes *Iva* on Fire Island. Other associates include *Cirsium vulgare* and *Aster novi-belgii*.

Globally

This salt shrub community of the Atlantic coast occurs on the high salt marsh - upland ecotone. The substrate is characterized by peat overtopping sand or sand and gravel. The shrub layer is dominated by *Iva frutescens* and *Baccharis halimifolia*. The herbaceous layer is relatively diverse and includes *Panicum virgatum*, *Limonium carolinianum*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *Plantago maritima ssp. juncooides*, *Spartina patens* and *Salicornia* spp.

COMMENTS:

Fire Island National Seashore

Globally

States/Provinces: CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?, VA?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G5

DATABASE CODE: C EGL006063

MAP UNITS: FIIS plots 42, 26

REFERENCES:

Daiber et al. 1976

Dowhan and Rozsa 1989

Good 1965

Klemas et al. 1973

Sneddon et al. 1995

Tiner 1984