

Fire Island Photo Interpretation Key



Class: *Smilax* spp. - *Toxicodendron radicans* Vine-Shrubland (Maritime Vine Dune)

TNC Alliance Code: III. B. 2. N. a. 16. 3666

CMI Code: 3886

Type Locator:

Restricted to Fire Island Located Island Wide

TNC Alliance Description: This community is shallowly rooted in secondary dunes and receives overwash only during storm surges. This association is a vine-covered maritime sand dune where vine species grow over the sand surface and over short shrubs. Vine species have dense total cover; *Toxicodendron radicans* is the most common vine with *Smilax glauca* locally abundant and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* present. Short shrubs are common and include *Myrica pensylvanica* and *Rubus flagellaris*, which occur on raised mounds with abundant moss and *Cladonia* spp. The herbaceous layer is often sparse with *Ammophila breviligulata*.

Photo Interpretation: This type is difficult to identify from photos as the *Toxidendron radicans* is often found growing over shrubs. It is perhaps best described as what it is not. It does not appear like *Myrica pennsylvanica* usually found around it. This type does appear as a brown color highly interspersed with open sand when occurring in larger polygons.

Aerial Photo Samples:



Field Notes: Vines dominate this vegetation class. *Toxicodendron radicans* and *Smilax glauca* are the most common vines. These vines may be growing over shrub or herbaceous species, including *Myrica pensylvanica* and *Ammophila breviligulata*.

Ground Photos:



Similar Alliances: *Myrica pensylvanica* - *Rosa rugosa* Shrubland (Northern Dune Shrubland): *Myrica pensylvanica* present in both alliances. Vine species have dense total cover of Vine-Shrubland.