

***Pinus virginiana* - *Quercus prinus* - *Quercus rubra* / *Vaccinium pallidum* - *Kalmia latifolia*
Forest**

COMMON NAME Virginia Pine - Rock Chestnut Oak - Red Oak / Hillside Blueberry - Mountain Laurel Forest
SYNONYM Blue Ridge Acid Shale Forest
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Mixed evergreen-deciduous forest (I.C)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Mixed needle-leaved evergreen - cold-deciduous forest (I.C.3)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.C.3.N)
FORMATION Mixed needle-leaved evergreen - cold-deciduous forest (I.C.3.N.a)

ALLIANCE *Pinus virginiana* - *Quercus (coccinea, prinus)* Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community is known from the Blue Ridge in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee and may range into South Carolina.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

This community was not sampled, nor is it likely, on the Mount Le Conte or Cades Cove quadrangles. It is an uncommon community but may occur in the Park where shale outcrops occur on steep slopes. One occurrence is known from the Calderwood quadrangle, on Chilhowhee Mountain.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is known to occur over somewhat calcareous shales in the Hot Springs Window, in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina and Tennessee. It is apparently a long-lived community, maintained by harsh edaphic conditions of steep slopes and shifting shale substrate.

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No information

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum

Tree canopy

Short shrub

Herbaceous

Species

Pinus virginiana, *Quercus prinus*, *Quercus rubra*

Vaccinium pallidum

variable

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Stratum

No information

Species

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

No information

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VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Xeric slope forest with a 10- to 25-meter closed (to slightly open) canopy dominated by *Pinus virginiana*, *Quercus prinus*, and *Quercus rubra*. Understory species include *Acer rubrum* var. *rubrum* and *Oxydendrum arboreum*. The moderate to dense shrub layer consists of *Vaccinium pallidum* and *Kalmia latifolia*, with less frequent *Vaccinium stamineum* and *Philadelphus hirsutus*. The herb stratum is poorly developed, usually consisting of scattered individuals of *Campanula divaricata*, *Dichanthelium* spp.,

Hieracium venosum, *Danthonia spicata*, *Houstonia tenuifolia*, and others.

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No information

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

No information

CONSERVATION RANK G2?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL007539

COMMENTS

Globally

L.L. Gaddy reports this association from the Chauga Basin, South Carolina. Known from Chilhowee Mountain, Tennessee.

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REFERENCES

None