

Arundinaria gigantea ssp. *gigantea* Shrubland

COMMON NAME Giant Cane Shrubland
SYNONYM Interior Highlands Canebrake
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Evergreen shrubland (III.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate broad-leaved evergreen shrubland (III.A.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (III.A.2.N)
FORMATION Temporarily flooded temperate broad-leaved evergreen shrubland (III.A.2.N.g)

ALLIANCE *Arundinaria gigantea* Temporarily Flooded Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Remnants of this community are found throughout the southeastern United States in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, and may range into Virginia.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

This community was sampled from one location on the Cade Cove quadrangle. It is unlikely on the Mount Le Conte quadrangle. It could occur in other areas of the Park, particularly along larger rivers. This community was sampled from the western end of the Cades Cove Loop Road, along Abrams Creek.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This is a seasonally to temporarily flooded wetland, occurring on alluvial and loess substrates, associated with streamside flats and bottomlands. This vegetation is thought to be maintained by frequent fire and may have historically been the result of burning by Native Americans or succession on extensive, abandoned aboriginal floodplain agricultural lands.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

This vegetation occurs in association with an oxbow pond.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tall shrub	<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
See above	

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Arundinaria gigantea

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

See above

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This wetland is dominated by dense coverage of *Arundinaria gigantea* from one to over three meters tall. There is no tree understory, but widely scattered trees may be present.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The single example of this community observed on the Cades Cove quadrangle covers approximately 750 square meters. It is a dense, monospecific stand of *Arundinaria gigantea*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

None

CONSERVATION RANK G2?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

This vegetation was widespread historically and now occupies very little acreage. It is thought to be maintained by frequent fire and may have historically resulted from aboriginal agriculture and burning. Dense, monospecific stands of *Arundinaria gigantea* ssp. *gigantea* were historically found in bottomland sites in the southeastern United States. Today, this vegetation exists as small remnants, and high quality examples are extremely rare, if not absent.

DATABASE CODE C EGL003836

COMMENTS

Globally

This association is a general placeholder for several associations that are likely to be recognized.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

On the Cades Cove quadrangle this vegetation occurs adjacent to a shrub swamp and abandoned agricultural fields.

REFERENCES

Campbell 1980, Campbell 1989, Davidson 1950, Foti et al. 1994, Heineke 1987, Hoagland 1997, Hughes 1966, McInteer 1952, Meanley 1972, Mohr 1901, Platt and Brantley 1992, Platt and Brantley 1997