

Asplenium ruta-muraria - *Pellaea atropurpurea* Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Wall-rue - Purple Cliff-brake Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Montane Cliff (Calcareous Type)
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse Vegetation (VII)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Consolidated rock sparse vegetation (VII.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated cliffs (VII.A.1)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (VII.A.1.N)
FORMATION	Cliffs with sparse vascular vegetation (VII.A.1.N.a)
ALLIANCE	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i> - <i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i> Sparsely Vegetated Alliance
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	2
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM	Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community occurs in areas of limestone or dolomite geology in Alabama, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, and may possibly range into South Carolina.

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This community was not sampled or observed on the Cades Cove or Mount Le Conte quadrangles. It is possible in areas of limestone geology on the Cades Cove quadrangle. One potential area for this community is in the vicinity of Gregory's Cave on the Cades Cove quadrangle.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community includes dry to rather moist limestone and dolomite outcrops, usually shaded by trees rooted in adjacent forested communities.

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No information

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	rock, variable herbaceous species
Nonvascular	variable

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
No information	

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Asplenium ruta-muraria, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, *Pellaea glabella* ssp. *glabella*, *Asplenium resiliens*, *Aquilegia Canadensis*

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No information

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community has little vegetative cover, often with 90 percent of the rock surface unvegetated. Mosses and lichens can have moderate coverage, and vascular plants occur on ledges and rooted in cracks. Calciphilic herbs, such as *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, *Pellaea glabella* ssp. *glabella*, *Asplenium resiliens*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, are characteristic. Moister microhabitats of the crevice may have mosses such as *Anomodon rostratus* and *Anomodon attenuatus*.

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No information

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

No information

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL004476

COMMENTS

Globally

This community is extremely uncommon in the southern Blue Ridge.

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REFERENCES

Schafale and Weakley 1990