

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

Isle Royale National Park

Acer spicatum - Thuja occidentalis - Betula papyrifera / Taxus canadensis Cliff Forested Scrub [Provisional]

COMMON NAME	Mountain Maple - Northern White-cedar - Paper Birch / Canada Yew Cliff Forested Scrub
SYNONYM	Great Lakes Boreal Cliff Forested Scrub [Provisional]
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	Temperate cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.a)
ALLIANCE	ACER SPICATUM SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM TERRESTRIAL

RANGE

Isle Royale National Park

This community is rare, and occurs primarily at the northeast end of the park.

Globally

This type is reported from Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, where this community is rare, and occurs primarily at the northeast end of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This community occupies sites on very steep talus slopes or cliffs, typically facing northwest.

Globally

This association has only been described at Isle Royale NP. The global description is the same as the local description until more examples can be examined.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tall shrub	<i>Acer spicatum</i> , <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> , <i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Short shrub	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>
Forb	<i>Mitella nuda</i>
Fern	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>

Globally

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CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Acer spicatum, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Betula papyrifera*, *Taxus canadensis*

Globally

Acer spicatum, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Betula papyrifera*, *Taxus canadensis*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This Great Lakes boreal cliff type is a closed canopy forested scrub, with about 80% canopy cover. *Acer spicatum* is dominant in the canopy, with over 50% cover; other tree species present include *Thuja occidentalis*, *Betula papyrifera*, and *Picea glauca*. There is about 30% cover of short shrubs; *Taxus canadensis* and *Rubus parviflorus* are the most abundant shrubs. Cover of herbs is about 30%; the most abundant herbs are *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* and *Mitella nuda*. Cover of

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nonvascular plants is about 20%; *Pleurozium schreberi* is a common moss.

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OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Information not available

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE CEGL005251

MAP UNITS 12

COMMENTS

Globally

The physiognomy of this type is unclear. It may be that the type belongs in a forest class.

REFERENCES