

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

Isle Royale National Park

Betula papyrifera - Picea glauca / Acer spicatum - Alnus viridis / Polypodium vulgare Talus Woodland [Provisional]

COMMON NAME	Paper Birch - White Spruce / Mountain Maple - Mountain Alder / Rock Polypody Talus Woodland
SYNONYM	Great Lakes Boreal Talus Woodland [provisional]
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Woodland (II)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Mixed evergreen-deciduous woodland (II.C)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Mixed needle-leaved evergreen - cold-deciduous woodland (II.C.3)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (II.C.3.N)
FORMATION	Mixed needle-leaved evergreen - cold-deciduous woodland (II.C.3.N.a)
ALLIANCE	PICEA GLAUCA - BETULA PAPYRIFERA WOODLAND ALLIANCE [PROVISIONAL]

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM TERRESTRIAL

RANGE

Isle Royale National Park

This community is rare, and restricted to talus at the base of cliffs, primarily along the northeast end of the island along Stanley Ridge.

Globally

This association is found in Michigan and Ontario.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This community occupies steep to very steep talus slopes at the base of basalt cliffs 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>
Tree canopy	<i>Betula papyrifera, Picea glauca</i>
Short shrub	<i>Acer spicatum, Alnus viridis</i>
Fern	<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Betula papyrifera, Picea glauca</i>
Short shrub	<i>Acer spicatum, Alnus viridis</i>
Fern	<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Acer spicatum, Alnus viridis, Polypodium virginianum

Globally

Acer spicatum, Alnus viridis, Polypodium virginianum

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This paper birch - white spruce talus woodland is an open canopy, mixed evergreen and deciduous woodland that occurs on steep talus slopes. Canopy cover of trees over 5 m tall is typically 30 to 50% cover. The most abundant trees are *Betula papyrifera* and *Picea glauca*. Cover of tall shrubs varies from 10 to 70% cover; the most abundant tall shrubs are *Acer spicatum* and *Alnus viridis*. Cover of short shrubs (including dwarf shrubs) varies from 5 to 40%; the most abundant low shrubs are *Taxus canadensis* and *Rubus pubescens*. Herbs usually have about 30 to 40% cover; the most abundant herbs

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Isle Royale National Park

are *Polypodium virginianum* and *Dryopteris expansa*. Cover of nonvascular plants is usually about 30 to 40%; mosses such as *Pleurozium schreberi*, and foliose lichens are common in the groundlayer.

Globally

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OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEGL005252

MAP UNITS 28

COMMENTS

REFERENCES