

## USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

### Isle Royale National Park

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#### **Cladium mariscoides - Carex cryptolepis - Rhynchospora alba - Juncus canadensis Herbaceous Vegetation**

COMMON NAME	Twig-rush - Northeastern Sedge - White Beaksedge - Canada Rush Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Twigrush Wet Meadow
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.k)
ALLIANCE	CLADIUM MARISCOIDES SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

#### RANGE

##### ***Isle Royale National Park***

This community is rare; only one site, at Hidden Lake, was found in 1997 or 1998.

##### ***Globally***

This community is reported from the central and eastern Great Lakes in Ohio, Indiana, Ontario, and on Isle Royale in Michigan. Its possible distribution in New York needs confirmation. Range-wide distribution needs to be clarified.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

##### ***Isle Royale National Park***

This community occupies a wet depression in a lake plain at an elevation of 610 feet. Soils are very poorly drained peats that are saturated.

##### ***Globally***

The environmental characteristics of this association have not been described rangewide.

#### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

##### ***Isle Royale National Park***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Myrica gale</i>
Graminoid	<i>Cladium mariscoides</i> , <i>Carex lacustris</i>

##### ***Globally***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Graminoid	<i>Cladium mariscoides</i>

#### CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

##### ***Isle Royale National Park***

*Cladium mariscoides*

##### ***Globally***

*Cladium mariscoides*

#### VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

##### ***Isle Royale National Park***

This twig rush wet meadow is a wetland dominated by sedges. *Cladium mariscoides* is the most abundant herb (average 62% cover), other common herbs are *Carex lacustris*, *Rhynchospora alba*, and *Utricularia intermedia* (each < 25% cover); *Myrica gale* is the most abundant shrub (<25% cover); *Sphagnum* spp. are very common in the groundlayer (average 37% cover).

##### ***Globally***

The vegetation is dominated by graminoids. Stands in northwest Ohio, and possibly adjacent states, contain *Cladium mariscoides*, *Carex cryptolepis*, *Juncus canadensis*, and *Rhynchospora alba* (G. Schneider personal communication 1996). This twig rush wet meadow is a wetland dominated by sedges. *Cladium mariscoides* is the most abundant herb (average 62%

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#### OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

##### *Isle Royale National Park*

Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G3G5. There are probably close to 100 occurrences of this community in the Great Lakes basin. It is reported from Ohio (where it is ranked S4), Indiana (S1), and Ontario (S?). Similar vegetation occurs along the Lake Ontario shores in New York. Currently there are two occurrences documented in Indiana. There are probably at least 1000 acres of this community rangewide. Currently 75 acres are documented from one occurrence in Indiana. Many wetlands along the Great Lakes shores have been disturbed by shoreline development and alterations to hydrology, including alterations to lake level fluctuations.

DATABASE CODE           CEGL005103

MAP UNITS           48

COMMENTS

REFERENCES