

## USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

### Isle Royale National Park

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#### Myrica gale Fen Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Sweet Gale Fen Shrubland
SYNONYM	Sweet Gale Shrub Fen
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	Saturated cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.g)
ALLIANCE	PENTAPHYLLOIDES FLORIBUNDA - MYRICA GALE - (CAREX LASIOCARPA) SATURATED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM TERRESTRIAL

#### RANGE

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

This community is rare; most of the sites sampled were in the southwest end of the island, with only one site in the northeast end.

##### **Globally**

This association is found in Michigan, Minnesota, and Ontario.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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

This community occupies wet depressions at elevations ranging from 620 feet to 988 feet, with saturated muck or peat soils, in areas that are not influenced by fluctuating Lake Superior water levels.

##### **Globally**

Rangewide information on the environmental features of this type are not available.

#### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Myrica gale</i> , <i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>
Graminoid	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> , <i>Rhynchospora alba</i>

##### **Globally**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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#### CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

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

*Myrica gale*, *Carex lasiocarpa*

##### **Globally**

*Myrica gale*, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Rhynchospora alba*

#### VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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

This sweet gale shrub fen is a peatland dominated by deciduous shrubs and sedges. Cover of short shrubs varies from 30 to 80%; the most abundant shrubs are *Myrica gale* (25 to 60% cover), *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Andromeda polifolia* var. *glaucophylla* (each 1 to 5% cover), and *Betula pumila* (<1% cover). Cover of dwarf-shrubs varies from 0 to 10%; the most abundant dwarf-shrub is *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Scattered stunted trees and tall shrubs may be present (with 0 to 5% cover); most common are *Larix laricina*, *Picea mariana*, *Thuja occidentalis*, and *Alnus incana*. Cover of herbs varies from 40 to 80%; the most abundant herbs are *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Rhynchospora alba*, and *Calamagrostis canadensis*. *Sphagnum* spp. are common in the groundlayer (5 to 50% cover).

##### **Globally**

This shrub fen community is potentially found in the northern Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. It

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has not been well described by any authors, and it may overlap in concept with other shrub fens, e.g. the leatherleaf-sweet gale shore fen (CEGL005228). Further work is needed to determine the rangewide characteristics of this type.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

***Isle Royale National Park***

Information not available

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE CEGL005141

MAP UNITS 37

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

- Harris, A. G., S. C. McMurray, P. W. C. Uhlig, J. K. Jeglum, R. F. Foster, and G. D. Racey. 1996. Field guide to the wetland ecosystem classification for northwestern Ontario. Ont. Minist. Nat. Resour., Northwest Sci. Tech. Field Guide FG-01. Thunder Bay, Ont. 74 p.
- Lee, H., W. Bakowsky, J. Riley, J. Bowles, M. Puddister, P. Uhlig, and S. McMurray. 1998. Ecological land classification for southern Ontario: first approximation and its application. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southcentral Science Section, Science Development and Transfer Branch. SCSS Field Guide FG-02.