

## USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

### Isle Royale National Park

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#### Rubus parviflorus Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Thimbleberry Shrubland
SYNONYM	Thimbleberry Shrubland
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	Subalpine or subpolar cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.b)
ALLIANCE	RUBUS PARVIFLORUS SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM TERRESTRIAL

#### RANGE

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

This community is uncommon; it occurs primarily in widely scattered locations at the northeast end of the island.

##### **Globally**

This association is found in Michigan and Ontario.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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

This community occupies gentle to moderate slopes at fairly low elevations (from 620 to 750 feet); it seems to be successional following disturbance by burning or clearing. It is probably a fairly short-lived successional stage.

##### **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**

###### Stratum

Tree canopy

Short shrub

Forb

###### Species

*Betula papyrifera*, *Picea glauca*

*Rubus parviflorus*

*Aralia nudicaulis*, *Streptopus roseus*, *Aster macrophyllus*

##### **Globally**

###### Stratum

Tree canopy

Short shrub

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###### Species

*Betula papyrifera*, *Picea glauca*

*Rubus parviflorus*

*Aralia nudicaulis*, *Streptopus roseus*, *Aster macrophyllus*

#### CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

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

*Rubus parviflorus*

##### **Globally**

*Rubus parviflorus*

#### VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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

Thimbleberry shrubland is a deciduous shrubland. There may be a sparse tree layer with 10 to 20% cover; the most common trees are *Betula papyrifera*, *Picea glauca*, and *Populus tremuloides*. A tall shrub layer may be present, cover of tall shrubs varies from 0 to 40%; the most abundant tall shrubs are saplings or browsed scrub of *Abies balsamea*. The short shrub layer (including dwarf shrubs) has from 40 to 80% cover; *Rubus parviflorus* is the most abundant shrub (usually 25 to 50% cover); *Rubus idaeus* may also be present. Cover of the herbaceous layer varies from 20 to 90% cover; the most abundant herbs are *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Streptopus roseus*, *Aster macrophyllus*, *Clintonia borealis*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Galium triflorum*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, and *Linnaea borealis*. There may be up to about 10% cover of lichens. This shrubland seems to be a successional type following disturbance, (for example, disturbance by fire or clearing) that will develop into a mixed

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or deciduous forest. Standing dead snags of *Betula papyrifera* are common in several examples.

***Globally***

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OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

***Isle Royale National Park***

Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE C EGL005248

MAP UNITS 32

COMMENTS

***Globally***

This type seems to be successional following disturbance by burning or clearing. It is probably a fairly short-lived successional stage (C. Reshcke personal communication 1999).

REFERENCES