

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

Isle Royale National Park

Sorbus decora - Acer spicatum / Dryopteris carthusiana Forested Scrub [Provisional]

COMMON NAME Mountain-ash - Mountain Maple / Spinulose Woodfern Forested Scrub
SYNONYM Mountain Ash-Mountain Maple Forested Scrub
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 restricted to a few outer islands in Rock Harbor at the northeast end of the park. Plots were sampled on Smithwick Island.

Globally

This type is only known from Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, where it is restricted to a few outer islands in Rock Harbor at the northeast end of the park. It is expected to be in northwestern Ontario, as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This community occupies sites on gentle to moderate slopes at low elevations (under 650 feet) on some of the outer islands in Rock Harbor. Soils are loams to sandy loam, moderately well drained to well drained.

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>Sorbus decora</i> , <i>Acer spicatum</i> |
| Fern | <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i> |
| Nonvascular | <i>Usnea</i> spp. |

Globally

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CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Sorbus decora, *Acer spicatum*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*

Globally

Sorbus decora, *Acer spicatum*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

Mountain ash - mountain maple forest is a rare type of deciduous forested scrub. Canopy cover varies from 40 to 90%; *Sorbus decora* is the most abundant canopy tree, *Acer spicatum* may be codominant, and other less common trees include *Abies balsamea*, *Picea glauca*, and *Betula papyrifera*. Cover of shrubs varies from about 10 to 70%; *Oplopanax borridus* may be a common understory shrub (but is absent in some places); other common shrubs are *Rubus idaeus*, *Sambucus racemosa*, and *Taxus canadensis*. *Dryopteris carthusiana* is the most abundant herb, (25 to 75% cover); other common herbs are *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* (20 to 60% cover) and *Maianthemum canadense* (5 to 35% cover). Cover of nonvascular plants is

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Isle Royale National Park

about 5 to 25%; the most abundant nonvascular plant is the epiphytic lichens called 'old man's beard' or 'hairy lichens' (*Usnea* spp.).

Globally

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OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEGL005253

MAP UNITS 13

COMMENTS

Globally

The physiognomy of this type is variable. It may be more tree dominated than shrub-dominated, but at this time *Acer spicatum* is placed in the shrub category.

REFERENCES