



**Globally**

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

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

**Voyageurs National Park**

A short shrub layer with low to moderate cover is often present, with *Myrica gale*, *Betula pumila*, *Alnus incana*, *Salix petiolaris*, and *Salix pedicellaris* the most abundant shrubs. *Chamaedaphne calyculata* is usually present at 80-100% cover but may be mixed with lesser amounts of the dwarf-shrubs *Andromeda polifolia* and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. In addition to bog plants such as *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *Drosera rotundifolia*, other minerotrophic indicators are also present at 10-40% cover. These include *Carex lacustris*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Typha latifolia*, *Calamagrostis canadensis*, and *Iris versicolor*. Occasionally, herbaceous cover may reach 90%. A continuous carpet of peat moss includes species such as *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Sphagnum recurvum sensu stricta*, *Sphagnum angustifolium*, and *Sphagnum subsecundum sensu lato*.

**Globally**

Low shrubs dominate the stands, generally over 60%. Dominant species include *Chamaedaphne calyculata* and *Myrica gale*. *Salix pedicellaris* is often present. The herbaceous layer is variable in cover and composition, sometimes shaded out by the heavy shrub cover. Species include *Calamagrostis canadensis*, *Carex aquatilis*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex rostrata*, and *Potentilla palustris* (Harris *et al.* 1996). In northern Minnesota a short shrub layer with low to moderate cover is often present, with *Myrica gale*, *Betula pumila*, *Alnus incana*, *Salix petiolaris*, and *Salix pedicellaris* the most abundant shrubs. In the dwarf-shrub layer *Chamaedaphne calyculata* is usually present at 80-100% cover but may be mixed with lesser amounts of *Andromeda polifolia* and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. In addition to bog plants such as *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *Drosera rotundifolia*, other minerotrophic indicators are also present at 10-40% cover. These include *Carex lacustris*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Typha latifolia*, *Calamagrostis canadensis*, and *Iris versicolor*. Occasionally, herbaceous cover may reach 90%. A continuous carpet of peat moss includes species such as *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Sphagnum recurvum sensu stricta*, *Sphagnum angustifolium*, and *Sphagnum subsecundum sensu lato* (M. Smith personal communication 1999).

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEG005228

COMMENTS

**Voyageurs National Park**

Diagnostic features of the type include the high cover of *Chamaedaphne calyculata* with one or more of the following minerotrophic species present: *Myrica gale*, *Betula pumila*, *Salix* spp., *Carex lacustris*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Typha latifolia*, *Calamagrostis canadensis*, and *Iris versicolor*. Depending on the site, this community includes poor, intermediate and rich fens. This type is analogous to Ontario's W15 (Harris *et al.* 1996). This type differs from the Leatherleaf Bog (CEGL002498) in that it harbors minerotrophic indicator species that the Leatherleaf Bog lacks. When cover of *Betula pumila* and *Salix* spp. increases, this community can grade into a Bog Birch-Willow Shore Fen (CEGL005227) or a Dogwood-Pussy Willow swamp (CEGL002186). Greater than 25% cover of short (not dwarf) shrubs would warrant placing the stand into one of these other communities.

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.

**Note:**

This association is found in two different map classes:

- 1) [Leatherleaf – Sweet Gale Shore Fen](#)
- 2) [Beaver Basin Break-up Mosaic](#)