



Maritime Slope Bog

State Rank S2

Community Description

A well developed layer of dwarf shrubs is dominated by heath shrubs and black crowberry in a dense carpet in this vegetation type. There may be scattered small conifers, and typically at least a small amount of common juniper. Baked apple-berry is diagnostic and is restricted to this type and other coastal or subalpine peatlands. Herbaceous “bog” species (deer-hair sedge, pitcher plant, etc.) are also common. The bryoid layer is extensive (>70% cover, usually close to 100%) and is dominated by peat mosses and small islands of reindeer lichens.

Soil and Site Characteristics

Sometimes called “blanket bogs,” these occur on bedrock or other rocky substrate. Soil is a thin organic layer over rock, and slopes are usually 5-10%. Sites occur on cool microsites near the Downeast coast.

Diagnostics

Tree cover is less than 25% and



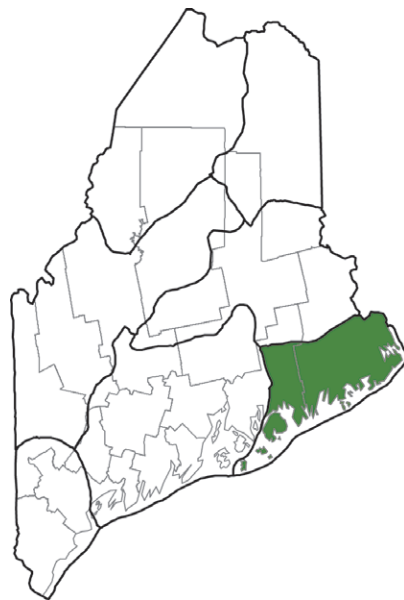
Baked Apple-berry

heath shrubs are dominant. Although the ground layer is composed of peat mosses, peat forms only a thin layer over bedrock or mineral substrate, so this is not a true peatland type.

Similar Types

Sheep Laurel Dwarf Shrub Bogs and Huckleberry - Crowberry Bogs share species and structure with Heath - Crowberry Maritime Slope Bogs; however, those are found in true peatlands (basins with deep accumulations of saturated peat), not on thin peat over rock. Heath - Lichen Subalpine Slope Bogs are compositionally similar but occur in the mountains.

Location Map



■ Community is known from this Ecoregion
■ Community may occur in this Ecoregion
 Bailey's Ecoregion
 County



Black Crowberry

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

This is an extremely restricted community type, but most documented occurrences are on public lands or private conservation lands. Recreation and climate change are the primary threats; careful planning of trails and ensuring that users stay on trails can help minimize recreational impacts.

The rare crowberry blue butterfly is restricted to coastal heaths in east-coastal Maine. It uses black crowberry as a larval host plant.

Distribution

Downeast coastal Maine, extending eastward into the Canadian Maritimes (Laurentian Mixed Forest Province).

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch



Round-leaved Sundew

Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

Sapling/shrub

- Black chokeberry
- Common juniper
- Mountain holly
- Wild-raisin

Dwarf Shrub

- Baked apple-berry
- Black crowberry*
- Black huckleberry
- Labrador tea
- Mountain cranberry
- Rhodora
- Sheep laurel*

Herb

- Bog goldenrod
- Deer-hair sedge
- Pitcher plant
- Round-leaved sundew
- Starflower
- White beak-rush

Bryoid

- Bog hair-cap moss
- Grey reindeer-lichen
- Sphagnum mosses*
- Woodland reindeer-lichen

Associated Rare Animals

- Crowberry blue

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Great Wass Island Preserve – Washington Co.
- Petit Manan Point, Petit Manan National Wildlife – Washington Co.