

Coastal Sedge Bog

State Rank S2

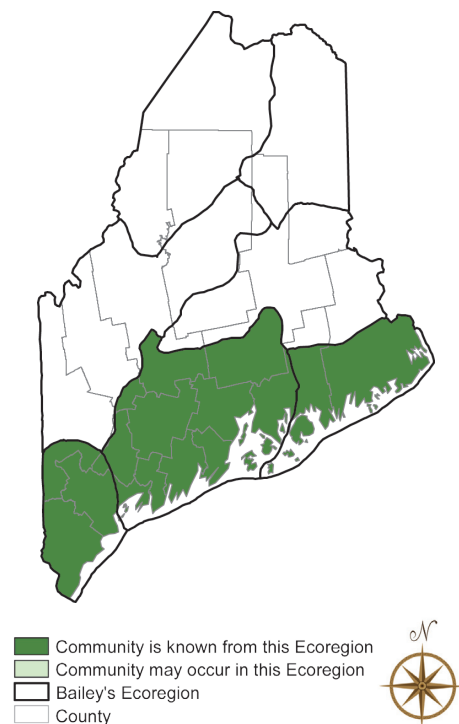
Similar Types

Shrubby Cinquefoil - Sedge
Circumneutral Fens can also be dominated by deer-hair sedge but are in fens, not raised coastal bogs, lack dwarf huckleberry, and have other circumneutral indicators present such as shrubby cinquefoil or certain sedges. Huckleberry - Crowberry Bogs can occur in similar settings to Deer-hair Sedge Bog Lawns, and can share many species, but will have dwarf shrubs more dominant than sedges; the two types may occur adjacent to each other with a continuous gradation from one type to the next.

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

This community type is not widely

Location Map



Labrador Tea



Deer-hair Sedge

distributed, but has been subject to few threats to date. Slow vegetation growth rates, due to the nutrient poor setting, mean slow recovery from physical disturbances, such as recreational use. If disturbance, such as foot traffic, is a necessity, traversing during frozen conditions or using boardwalks can minimize impacts. Peat harvesting could threaten some sites but is not currently much of a factor. Draining or other hydrologic changes would have negative impacts on bog vegetation. Several occurrences are on public lands or private conservation lands.

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

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch, interspersed with other peatland types.

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
Mountain holly

Dwarf Shrub

Black crowberry*
Dwarf huckleberry*
Labrador tea
Leatherleaf*
Pale laurel
Sheep laurel*
Small cranberry

Herb

Bog goldenrod
Coast sedge*
Deer-hair sedge*
Horned bladderwort
Pitcher plant
Round-leaved sundew

Bryoid

Bog broom-moss
Bog hair-cap moss
Little-tree reindeer-lichen
*Sphagnum rubellum**

Associated Rare Animals

Crowberry blue

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Acadia National Park – Hancock Co.
- Great Heath Public Lands – Washington Co.
- Great Wass Island Preserve – Washington Co.
- Larrabee Heath Preserve – Washington Co.
- Quoddy Head State Park – Washington Co.

Community Description

This raised bog type is dominated by carpets or patches of deer-hair sedge, often with very stunted (<0.3 m) heath shrubs such as black crowberry, dwarf huckleberry, or leatherleaf. Round-leaved sundew, pitcher plant, and small cranberry grow among the peat mosses, which form a dense and spongy ground layer. Reindeer lichens are scattered among the mosses.

Soil and Site Characteristics

This community is restricted to raised bogs along or near the coast, often forming expansive “lawns” on the raised portions. The substrate is saturated, acidic (pH ~ 4.5) peat moss. As with other bog vegetation, it occurs in nutrient poor, usually ombrotrophic settings.

Diagnostics

Sites are in a peatland setting, with a dominance of deer-hair sedge and a lack of other circumneutral indicators. Dwarf huckleberry is characteristic but not dominant.

