

Rivershore Outcrop

State Rank S2

Community Description

Sparse rivershore vegetation is dominated by herbs with occasional low shrubs. Total cover rarely exceeds 25%. Typical herbs include three-toothed cinquefoil, common hairgrass, hairy goldenrod, silverrod, bluebell, balsam ragwort, and narrow false oats. Shrubs include dwarf bilberry, lowbush blueberry, shrubby cinquefoil, and shadbush; poison ivy may be locally abundant. Where soil allows the growth of taller shrubs (e.g., at the upland transition into adjacent shrub vegetation), red osier dogwood, round-leaved dogwood, and willows may occur. The rare species associated with most of these ledges show an affinity to northern areas; in central Maine, one may find more temperate indicator species, such as Indian grass and little bluestem.

Soil and Site Characteristics

This type occurs on dry ledges and outcrops along rivershores. Substrate is typically circumneutral or calcareous slate, with plants growing in vertical fissures. Sites are subject to annual flooding and ice scour,



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which allows at least a small amount of silt to accumulate in the rock crevices.

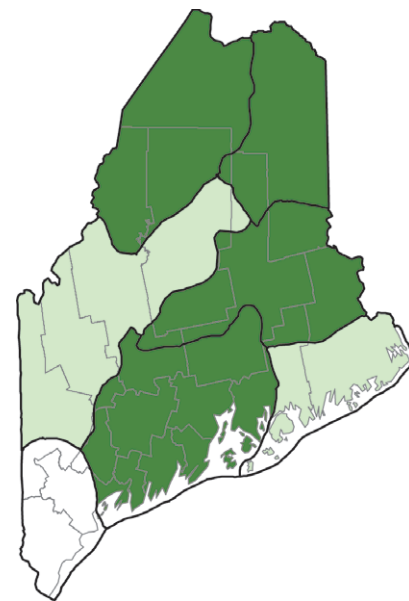
Diagnostics

Herb dominated sparse vegetation occurs on rivershore outcrops.

Similar Types

This is the only herb dominated rivershore ledge community type. Circumneutral Riverside Seeps share many species with moist pockets of these outcrops, but occur on gravelly (unconsolidated) substrates. The geographic transition seen from northern Maine rivers to those in central Maine may warrant splitting

Location Map



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



the central Maine occurrences into a "Bluestem Shoreline Outcrop" type, but more information is needed from both within and outside of Maine.

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

Many sites are visited on foot for recreation. In sites with moderate to heavy foot traffic, some degradation of the vegetation is apparent. A few sites show some degradation by exotic species such as Japanese knotweed. Several sites are in public ownership or private conservation ownership; many are privately owned.

These rivershore shrublands provide habitat for common bird species that inhabit open shrublands such as common yellowthroat, alder flycatcher, Wilson's warbler, and Lincoln's sparrow.

Distribution

Along the major rivers from central Maine northward and eastward. Extends east and north into New Brunswick and west into New Hampshire and Vermont.

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch. Linear.

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Allagash Lake, Allagash Wilderness Waterway - Piscataquis Co.
- Allagash Public Lands - Aroostook Co.
- Coburn Park - Somerset Co.
- Rocky Island Preserve - Aroostook Co.

Characteristic Plants

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

Sapling/shrub

Meadowsweet
Morrow's honeysuckle
Poison-ivy
Red osier dogwood
Round-leaved dogwood
Shining willow

Dwarf Shrub

Dwarf bilberry
Lowbush blueberry
Velvet-leaf blueberry

Herb

Balsam ragwort
Bluebell
Common pussytoes
Dwarf raspberry
Early goldenrod
Field pussytoes
Kalm's lobelia
Narrow false oats
Silverrod
Stiff aster
Tufted hairgrass
Wild chive

Associated Rare Plants

Alpine milk-vetch
Clinton's bulrush
Cut-leaved anemone
Indian grass
Mistassini primrose
New England violet
Pale green orchis
Purple clematis
Soft-leaf muhly
St. John oxytrope