

Vegetation Benchmarks

Native grassland



Themeda australis

Naomi Lawrence

HCM Cushion moorland: western facies

Community Description:

Cushion moorland is alpine vegetation in which > 50% of the ground is covered by cushion plants composed of at least one of the five main bolster heath species or the mat-forming sedge genus *Oreobolus*. The western facies is distinguished by the absence of dominance by *Abrotanella forsteroides*. The associated vegetation varies, depending on the location and geology of the site. This is one of two benchmarks available to assess the condition of HCM. This is the appropriate benchmark to use in assessing the condition of western facies of the listed *Cushion moorland* community (Schedule 3A, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*).

Benchmarks:

Component	Cover %	LF Code
Dominant Life Form	70%	PS
Organic Litter	5%	

Expected Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover %
Shrub	S	3	4
Prostrate shrub	PS	3	70
Herbs and orchids	H	8	4
Tiny grass/tiny sedge/tiny lily	TGS	2	10
Medium sedge/rush/sagg/lily	MSR	3	10
Mosses and Lichens	ML	1	10
Total	6	20	

Species lists:

Dominant Species	Common Name	Notes
<i>Donatia novae-zelandiae</i>	snow cushionplant	PS
<i>Dracophyllum minimum</i>	heath cushionplant	PS
<i>Oreobolus</i> spp.	cushionsedge	PS
<i>Phyllachne colensoi</i>	yellow cushionplant	PS

Other Typical Species *	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Androstoma verticillata</i>	clustered beardheath	S
<i>Bauera rubioides</i>	wirey baurea	S
<i>Bellenden montana</i>	mountain rocket	S
<i>Coprosma nitida</i>	mountain currant	S
<i>Cyathodes dealbata</i>	carpet cheeseberry	S
<i>Dracophyllum milliganii</i>	milligan's dragonleaf	S
<i>Epacris serpyllifolia</i>	alpine heath	S
<i>Olearia ledifolia</i>	rock daisybush	S
<i>Orites acicularis</i>	yellow orites	S
<i>Orites revoluta</i>	revolute orites	S
<i>Richea scoparia</i>	scoparia	S
<i>Richea sprengelioides</i>	rigid candleheath	S
<i>Sprengelia</i> spp.	swampheath	S
<i>Tasmania lanceolata</i>	mountain pepper	S
<i>Abrotanella forsteroides</i>	yellow cushionplant	PS
<i>Erigeron stellatus</i>	star mountain daisy	PS
<i>Ewartia planchonii</i>	creeping cushionherb	PS
<i>Pterygopappus lawrencei</i>	sage cushionplant	PS
<i>Anemone crassifolia</i>	mountain anemone	H
<i>Anisotome procumbens</i>	mountain celery	H
<i>Astelia alpina</i>	pineapple grass	H
<i>Carpha alpina</i>	alpine strawsedge	H
<i>Celmisia saxifraga</i>	small snowdaisy	H
<i>Celmisia asteliifolia</i>	silver snowdaisy	H
<i>Diplaspis cordifolia</i>	western diplaspis	H
<i>Drosera arcturi</i>	alpine sundew	H
<i>Euphrasia hookeri</i>	fingerleaf eyebright	H
<i>Gentianella</i> spp.	gentianella	H
<i>Helichrysum pumilum</i>	dwarf everlasting	H
<i>Helichrysum milliganii</i>	snow everlasting	H
<i>Isophysis tasmanica</i>	tasmanian purplestar	H
<i>Schizacme</i> spp.	mitrewort	H
<i>Carpha</i> spp.	strawsedge	TGS
<i>Poa</i> spp.	snowgrass	TGS
<i>Baloskion australe</i>	southern cordrush	MSR
<i>Empodisma minus</i>	spreading rope rush	MSR
<i>Milligania</i> spp.	milligania	MSR
<i>Uncinia</i> spp.	hooksedge	MSR

*This list is provided as a guide only. The species listed are typical of this plant community type but may not necessarily be present.

HCM Cushion moorland: *Abrotanella forsteroides* facies

Community Description:

Cushion moorland is alpine and subalpine vegetation in which > 50% of the ground is covered by cushions plants. The *Abrotanella forsteroides* facies is distinguished by the dominance of *Abrotanella forsteroides* and the absence of both *Donatia novae-zelandiae* and *Phyllachne colensoi*. Although *Dracophyllum minimum* may sometimes be important, the *Abrotanella* facies is distinguished by occurring mainly in a mosaic with highland sedgeland and highland grassy sedgeland species such as *Astelia alpina*, *Baloskion australe*, *Carpha alpina*, *Empodisma minus* and Poaceae spp. Prostrate and taller shrubs may also be a prominent component of this facies. Although the facies may be found throughout alpine and subalpine areas of Tasmania it most commonly occurs on the Eastern Central Plateau where it often locally dominant in wet areas within broad valley plains, and these patches are often too small to map or may be difficult to distinguish on aerial imagery from adjacent sedgelands, grassy sedgelands and heaths. This is one of two benchmarks available to assess the condition of HCM. It is the appropriate benchmark to use in assessing the condition of *Abrotanella forsteroides* facies of the listed *Cushion moorland* community (Schedule 3A, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*).

Benchmarks:

Component	Cover %	LF Code
Dominant Life Form	80%	PS
Organic Litter	5%	

Expected Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover %
Shrub	S	3	10
Prostrate Shrub	PS	2	80
Herbs and orchids	H	10	30
Tiny grass/tiny sedge/tiny lily	TGS	2	5
Medium sedge/rush/sagg/lily	MSR	4	10
Mosses and Lichens	ML	1	20
Total	6	22	

Species lists:

Dominant Species	Common Name	Notes
<i>Abrotanella forsteroides</i>	tasmanian cushionplant	PS

Other Typical Species *	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Bellenden montana</i>	mountain rocket	S
<i>Coprosma nitida</i>	mountain currant	S
<i>Cyathodes dealbata</i>	carpet cheeseberry	S
<i>Diselma archeri</i>	dwarf pine	S
<i>Epacris serpyllifolia</i>	alpine heath	S
<i>Microcachrys tetragona</i>	creeping pine	S
<i>Orites acicularis</i>	yellow orites	S
<i>Orites revoluta</i>	revolute orites	S
<i>Pherosphaera hookeriana</i>	drooping pine	S
<i>Richea scoparia</i>	scoparia	S
<i>Dracophyllum minimum</i>	heath cushionplant	PS
<i>Ewartia meredithae</i>	rusty cushionherb	PS
<i>Oreobolus pumilio</i> subsp. <i>pumilio</i>	dwarf cushionsedge	PS
<i>Pterygopappus lawrencei</i>	sage cushionplant	PS
<i>Pterygopappus lawrencei</i>	sage cushionplant	PS
<i>Schizacme archeri</i>	cushion mitrewort	PS
<i>Brachyscome</i> spp.	daisy	H
<i>Celmisia</i> spp.	snowdaisy	H
<i>Diplaspis cordifolia</i>	western diplaspis	H
<i>Drosera arcturi</i>	alpine sundew	H
<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	mountaindaisy	H
<i>Euphrasia</i> spp.	eyebright	H
<i>Gentianella</i> spp.	snowgiant	H
<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	buttercup	H
<i>Rubus gunnianus</i>	alpine raspberry	H
<i>Sprengelia</i> spp.	swampheath	H
<i>Poa</i> spp.	snowgrass	TGS
<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.	wallabygrass	TGS
<i>Uncinia compacta</i>	compact hooksedge	TGS
<i>Astelia alpina</i>	pineapple grass	MSR
<i>Baloskion australe</i>	southern cordrush	MSR
<i>Carpha alpina</i>	alpine strawsedge	MSR
<i>Empodisma minus</i>	spreading roperush	MSR
<i>Plantago gunnii</i>	bolster plantain	SCE

*This list is provided as a guide only. The species listed are typical of this plant community type but may not necessarily be present.