

HCM Cushion moorland: *Abrotanella forsteroides* facies

Community Description:

Cushion moorland is alpine and subalpine vegetation in which > 50% of the ground is covered by cushion 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 is often locally dominant in wet areas within broad valley plains; 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	

Understorey Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover (%)
Medium Shrub/Small Shrub	S	3	10
Prostrate and Mat Forming Shrubs (including cushion plants)	PS	2	80
Herbs and Orchids	H	10	30
Tiny Grass/Sedge/Lily	TGS	2	5
Medium to Small Sedge/Rush/Sagg/Lily	MSR	4	10
Mosses and Lichens	ML	1	20
Total	6	22	

Species lists:

Dominant Life Form Species	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Abrotanella forsteroides</i>	tasmanian cushionplant	PS

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Typical Understorey Species *	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Bellendena 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
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<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.	mountain daisy	H
<i>Euphrasia</i> spp.	eyebright	H
<i>Gentianella</i> spp.	snowgentian	H
<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	buttercup	H
<i>Rubus gunnianus</i>	alpine raspberry	H
<i>Sprenghelia</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.