

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	

Understorey Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover (%)
Medium Shrub/Small Shrub	S	3	4
Prostrate and Mat Forming Shrubs (including cushion plants)	PS	3	70
Herbs and Orchids	H	8	4
Tiny Grass/Sedge/Lily	TGS	2	10
Medium to Small Sedge/Rush/Sagg/Lily	MSR	3	10
Mosses and Lichens	ML	1	10
Total	6	20	

Species lists:

Dominant Life Form Species	Common Name	LF Code
<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

Typical Understorey 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 sprengeloides</i>	rigid candleheath	S
<i>Sprengelia</i> spp.	swampheath	S
<i>Tasmannia lanceolata</i>	mountain pepper	S
<i>Abrotanella forsteroides</i>	yellow cushionplant	PS
<i>Erigeron stellatus</i>	star mountandaisy	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>Balaskion 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.