

MU 13 TABLELAND GULLY RIBBON GUM – BLACKWOOD – APPLE BOX FOREST

□ CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS

Regional: related to either GW19 Abercrombie-Tarlo Foothills Woodland or GW520 Tableland Swamp Flats Forest

State: Southern Tableland Grassy Woodland

Number of Sites: 4 Average number of identified native species per plot: 45.8

□ DESCRIPTION

This forest occurs in the hills of the dry Capertee Valley along narrow gully systems. It is a forest with an open canopy of ribbon gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) and apple box (*E. bridgesiana*), often with taller wattles like blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and broad-leaved hickory (*A. falciformis*) forming a lower canopy that may be part of the uppermost layer. The shrub layer varies in density – and in patchiness – from moderately dense to quite sparse. Tree violet (*Hymenathera dentata*) forms the main shrub species, and the wetter soil conditions usually also support a good growth of nettles (*Urtica incisa*). The groundcover often has two distinct layers. The taller of the two is dominated by *Lomandra longifolia* and supports low tussock graminoids and young shrubs. The other is usually a low growing mix of grasses and forbs at a high percentage of cover and often quite diverse.



The unit favours metamorphic substrates, although the influence of alluvium in the development of the unit is also likely to be important. The altitude range of the unit is between 450 metres and 860 metres above sea level and there is between 620 millimetres and 830 millimetres of precipitation per annum.

The community included sites that were drawn from GW19 and GW520 units in Tindall *et al.* (2004) suggesting a distribution south to the Abercrombie Region and beyond. It is also likely to be more extensive across the adjoining catchment to the west of the Hawkesbury – Nepean. In the statewide classification it would be considered a member of the Southern Tableland Grassy Woodland community of Keith (2004). Reservation status is difficult to assess given the absence of comparable mapping to the west, however it is more than likely that it is poorly reserved and suffered moderate levels of clearing. Rough grazing is still evident in many stands of this community in the study area.

□ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	4	8	28.75	35	28.75	13.15	10	40
M1	4	2	9.75	20	10.50	9.71	5	25
M2	1	1	4	4	45		45	45
L1	4	0.15	0.73	1.2	50	25.82	20	80
L2	2		0.13	0.2	55	21.21	40	70

□ FLORISTIC SUMMARY

Trees

Acacia falciformis, *A. melanoxylon*, *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, *E. polyanthemos*, *E. punctata*, *E. sparsifolia*, *E. viminalis*

Low Trees and Shrubs

Hymenanthera dentata, *Senecio minimus*, *Solanum prinophyllum*

Ground Covers

Acaena novae-zelandiae, *Arrhenechthites mixta*, *Astroloma humifusum*, *Austrodanthonia racemosa*, *Carex inversa*, *Cymbonotus lawsonianus*, *Cynoglossum suaveolens*, *Desmodium varians*, *Echinopogon intermedius*, *E. ovatus*, *Galium propinquum*, *Geranium potentilloides*, *G. solanderi*, *Hydrocotyle laxiflora*, *Hypericum japonicum*, *Lagenifera stipitata*, *Lomandra filiformis*, *L. longifolia*, *L. multiflora*, *Mentha satuireioides*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Oxalis perennans*, *Plantago hispida*, *P. varia*, *Poa sieberiana*, *Poranthera microphylla*, *Senecio quadridentatus*, *Veronica spp.*, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Vittadinia cuneata* and *Wahlenbergia stricta*

Vines & Climbers

Clematis aristata, *Glycine clandestina*

□ KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES

Easily recognisable features to assist in identifying this map unit are:

- Grassy forest unit along water courses and in gullies with apple box and ribbon gum, with taller tree wattles.
- Abundance of species apart from grasses in the groundcover.
- Favours metamorphic areas, or alluvial soils derived from these strata.
- *Lomandra tussocks* often have a prominent place in the taller groundcover.

□ EXAMPLE LOCATIONS

Primarily found in the gullies and slopes of the western Capertee and southern Wolgan Valleys over metamorphic strata.

□ CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	220.56	25.67
B Medium	396.01	46.09
C High	242.69	28.24
Total	859.26	100

□ THREATENED PLANT SPECIES

Definite: *Eucalyptus cannonii* Possible: *Derwentia blakelyi*, *Persoonia marginata*

□ DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	3	50.00	2	13.33	positive
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	2	50.00	2	8.38	positive
<i>Arrhenechthites mixta</i>	2	50.00	1	5.42	positive
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	2	50.00	2	7.98	positive
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	2	50.00	1	11.09	positive
<i>Austrodanthonia racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	3	75.00	2	9.57	positive
<i>Carex inversa</i>	3	75.00	2	4.23	positive
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	2	100.00	2	30.49	positive
<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	2	75.00	1	6.06	positive
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	2	75.00	2	5.18	positive
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	2	100.00	2	19.07	positive
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	3	100.00	2	24.10	positive
<i>Echinopogon intermedius</i>	3	75.00	2	2.79	positive
<i>Echinopogon ovatus</i>	3	75.00	2	14.68	positive
<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	4	50.00	3	4.23	positive
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	4	50.00	3	5.26	positive
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>	3	50.00	3	21.31	positive
<i>Eucalyptus sparsifolia</i>	3	50.00	3	11.09	positive

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	3	50.00	3	8.69	positive
<i>Galium propinquum</i>	2	100.00	2	10.93	positive
<i>Geranium potentilloides</i>	2	50.00	2	6.06	positive
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	2	50.00	2	13.89	positive
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	2	50.00	2	20.51	positive
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	3	75.00	2	24.10	positive
<i>Hymenantha dentata</i>	4	50.00	2	5.58	positive
<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	2	50.00	2	6.46	positive
<i>Lagenifera stipitata</i>	2	75.00	2	9.89	positive
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i> subsp. <i>multiflora</i>	2	50.00	1	19.63	positive
<i>Mentha satuireioides</i>	2	75.00	2	1.27	positive
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	4	75.00	2	26.66	positive
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	2	50.00	1	10.45	positive
<i>Plantago hispida</i>	3	50.00	2	7.66	positive
<i>Plantago varia</i>	2	75.00	2	3.35	positive
<i>Pterostylis concinna</i>	2	50.00	2	1.27	positive
<i>Senecio minimus</i>	2	75.00	1	3.11	positive
<i>Solanum prinophyllum</i>	2	75.00	2	10.22	positive
<i>Veronica calycina</i>	2	50.00	2	11.09	positive
<i>Veronica plebeia</i>	2	50.00	2	16.03	positive
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	2	50.00	2	16.60	positive
<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i>	2	75.00	2	5.74	positive
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	2	75.00	2	14.68	positive
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	3	50.00	2	36.15	constant
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	3	100.00	2	39.35	constant
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	2	75.00	2	39.82	constant