

MU 15 TABLELAND HOLLOWES BLACK GUM – BLACK SALLY GRASSY OPEN FOREST

Regional: possibly a component of GW22 Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland

State: Subalpine Woodlands

Number of Sites: 4 Average number of identified native species per plot: 35.8

□ DESCRIPTION

Tableland Alluvial Black Gum Forest is a distinctive community found on the deep soils of alluvial flats in the Cox's and Gurnang areas. Many of the remaining stands of this forest are heavily disturbed and exist as small isolated patches. A moderately tall forest (c.25 metres) of *Eucalyptus aggregata* and *E. stellulata* grows on these sites, sometimes with *E. viminalis*, *E. pauciflora* and *E. bridgesiana*. The understorey is characterised by a very sparse shrub layer and a dense cover of grasses such as *Poa labillardierei* and *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*. Given the extent of disturbance it is not surprising that infestations of exotic species can dominate some sites.

This community is found at elevations between 800 metres and 980 metres above sea level, and shares a close association with cold air drainage found along major stream flats. Although occurring in areas with metamorphic or Permian geology, the unit appears to be more strongly influenced by the alluvial, clayey soils that occur in these broad flats. Likewise, although they receive between 800 millimetres and 940 millimetres of precipitation *per annum*, the influence of overland flow along the watercourses and the available moisture in the alluvial soils would be sustaining this community.



Data analysis provided no clear match to an appropriate regional community although habitat is similar to GW Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland vegetation complex described in the study of Tindall *et al.* (2004). The community is probably an element in either the Tableland Clay Grassy Woodlands or the Subalpine Woodlands of Keith (2004). The level of protection within formal reserves is poor, and past clearing has been extensive.

□ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	4	10	21.75	25	50	14.72	30	65
M1	2	0.60	2.75	4	26	33.94	2	50
L1	4		0.80	1	82.50	11.90	70	95

□ FLORISTIC SUMMARY

Trees

Eucalyptus aggregata, *E. pauciflora*, *E. stellulata*

Low Trees and Shrubs

Hibbertia obtusifolia

Ground Covers

Acaena novae-zelandiae, *Ajuga australis*, *Austrodanthonia laevis*, *Austrodanthonia racemosa*, *Carex inversa*, *Dichondra repens*, *Euchiton gymnocephalus*, *Geranium solanderi*, *Helichrysum scorpioides*, *Hovea heterophylla*, *Luzula flaccida*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Oreomyrrhis eriopoda*, *Plantago hispida*, *Poa labillardierei*, *Poa sieberiana*,

Scleranthus biflorus, *Senecio quadridentatus*, *Themeda australis*, *Veronica plebeia*, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Wahlenbergia stricta*

Vines & Climbers

Glycine clandestina

□ KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES

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

- Presence of black gum (also known as swamp box, *Eucalyptus aggregata*), often with black sally (*E. stellulata*) along and near relatively flat drainage lines, particularly in frost hollow areas.
- Very few shrubs (apart from saplings of canopy species). Some woody herbs may be present.

□ EXAMPLE LOCATIONS

Long Swamp – Upper Cox River Valley; Lidsdale State Forest near Mount Piper; Tuglow River and Kelly's Creek



□ CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	6.67	1.74
B Medium	32.92	8.58
C High	344.26	89.69
Total	383.85	100

□ THREATENED PLANT SPECIES

Possible: *Baloskion longipes*, *Diuris aequalis*, *Eucalyptus camphora*, *Eucalyptus macarthurii*, *Euphrasia scabra*, *Thesium australe*, *Trachymene scapigera* (syn. *T. saniculifolia*)

□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	2	50.00	2	13.33	positive
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	2	75.00	2	8.30	positive
<i>Asperula gunnii</i>	1	25.00	0	0.00	positive
<i>Austrodanthonia laevis</i>	3	50.00	2	1.91	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>Cynoglossum australe</i>	2	50.00	1	4.15	positive
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	2	100.00	2	24.10	positive
<i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i>	3	75.00	5	0.07	positive
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	3	50.00	3	5.18	positive
<i>Eucalyptus stellulata</i>	5	50.00	2	0.87	positive
<i>Euchiton gymnocephalus</i>	2	75.00	2	5.50	positive
<i>Galium propinquum</i>	2	50.00	2	11.09	positive
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	2	75.00	2	13.81	positive
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	2	50.00	2	20.51	positive
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	3	50.00	2	11.89	positive
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	2	50.00	2	27.28	positive
<i>Hovea linearis</i>	3	50.00	1	11.09	positive
<i>Lomandra glauca</i>	2	50.00	2	25.22	positive
<i>Luzula flaccida</i>	2	50.00	1	4.54	positive
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	2	75.00	2	26.66	positive
<i>Oreomyrrhis eriopoda</i>	2	50.00	2	3.11	positive
<i>Phyllanthus similis</i>	1	25.00	0	0.00	positive
<i>Plantago hispida</i>	2	50.00	2	7.66	positive
<i>Poa labillardierei</i> var. <i>labillardierei</i>	4	100.00	2	8.38	positive
<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	2	50.00	1	23.30	positive
<i>Rumex dumosus</i>	1	25.00	0	0.00	positive
<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	2	75.00	2	1.11	positive
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	2	50.00	2	9.73	positive
<i>Solenogyne gunnii</i>	2	50.00	2	1.03	positive
<i>Stellaria pungens</i>	2	50.00	2	23.06	positive
<i>Themeda australis</i>	2	75.00	2	9.17	positive
<i>Tylophora grandiflora</i>	2	25.00	0	0.00	positive
<i>Veronica plebeia</i>	2	50.00	2	16.03	positive
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	2	50.00	2	16.60	positive
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	2	50.00	2	14.76	positive
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	3	75.00	2	39.82	constant
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	0	0.00	2	36.31	negative
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	0	0.00	2	39.66	negative