

RPW *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland: alpine and coniferous heathland facies

Community Description:

Vegetation in which *Athrotaxis cupressoides* (5-8 m) occurs as widely scattered small trees often together with occasional copses. In long-unburnt areas, for example in the Walls of Jerusalem, but also in remnant pockets in other parts of the central highlands and Mt Field, *A. cupressoides* may be found scattered over a diverse understorey of alpine heathland and/or coniferous heathland. It is often restricted to the margins of lakes and streams. The most common conifers are *Microcachrys tetragona*, *Diselma archeri* and sometimes *Ptherosphaera hookeriana*. Shrubs commonly include *Telopea truncata* and species of *Richea* and *Orites*. The understorey commonly includes herbs and can be grassy where there are deep fertile soils. On siliceous substrates RPW often forms thickets or windrows on poorly drained plains. In addition to small conifers, other co-occurring species include *Richea* spp., *Gleichenia alpina*, *Empodisma minus*, *Eurychorda complanata* and sometimes a few cushions, with *Poa gunnii*, *Boronia rhomboidea*, *Pentachondra pumila* or *Euphrasia striata*. Mosses and lichens occur in drier patches. This is one of three benchmarks available for assessing the condition of RPW. This is the appropriate benchmark to use in assessing the condition of the alpine and coniferous heathland facies of the listed *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland community (Schedule 3A, Nature Conservation Act 2002).

Benchmarks:

Component	Height (m)	Cover (%)	DBH (cm)	Diameter (cm)	Count (#/ha)	Total Length (m/0.1 ha)
Tree Canopy	6	10	-	-	-	-
Large Trees	-	-	20	-	5	-
Logs	-	-	-	≥ 10	-	2
Large Logs	-	-	-	≥ 10	-	-
Organic Litter	-	10	-	-	-	-
Recruitment	Continuous					

Understorey Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover (%)
Immature Canopy Tree	ICT	1	1
Medium Shrub/Small Shrub	S	12	40
Prostrate and Mat Forming Shrubs (incl. cushion plants)	PS	2	15
Herbs and Orchids	H	4	5
Grasses	G	1	<1
Medium to Small Sedge/Rush/Sagg/Lily	MSR	2	10
Ground Ferns and fern allies	GF	1	<1
Mosses and Lichens	ML	1	5
Total	8	24	

Species lists:

Tree Canopy Species	Common Name	Notes
<i>Athrotaxis cupressoides</i>	pencil pine	May be present as only a sparse canopy
<i>Eucalyptus coccoifera</i>	snow peppermint	Scattered trees only (<5%) when present
<i>Eucalyptus gunnii</i>	cider gum	Scattered trees only (<5%) when present
<i>Eucalyptus subcrenulata</i>	alpine yellow gum	Scattered trees only (<5%) when present

Typical Understorey Species *	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Boronia rhomboidea</i>	broadleaf boronia	S
<i>Coprosma nitida</i>	mountain currant	S
<i>Diselma archeri</i>	dwarf pine	S
<i>Microcachrys tetragona</i>	creeping pine	S
<i>Nothofagus gunnii</i>	deciduous beech	S
<i>Orites revolutus</i>	revolute orites	S
<i>Orites acicularis</i>	yellow bush	S
<i>Ptherosphaera hookeriana</i>	drooping pine	S
<i>Planocarpa petiolaris</i>	alpine cheeseberry	S
<i>Richea scoparia</i>	scoparia	S
<i>Richea sprengelioides</i>	rigid candleheath	S
<i>Tasmania lanceolata</i>	mountain pepper	S
<i>Abrotanella forsteroides</i>	tasmanian cushionplant	PS
<i>Donatia novae-zelandiae</i>	snow cushionplant	PS
<i>Dracophyllum minimum</i>	heath cushionplant	PS
<i>Leptospermum rupestre</i>	mountain teatree	PS
<i>Pentachondra pumila</i>	carpet frillyheath	PS
<i>Podocarpus lawrencei</i>	mountain plum pine	PS
<i>Bellenden montana</i>	mountain rocket	H
<i>Celmisia asteliifolia</i>	silver snowdaisy	H
<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	mountain daisy	H
<i>Euphrasia striata</i>	shiny striped eyebright	H
<i>Hydrocotyle</i> spp.	pennywort	H
<i>Poa gunnii</i>	gunns snowgrass	G
<i>Astelia alpina</i>	pineapple grass	MSR
<i>Carpha alpina</i>	alpine strawsedge	MSR
<i>Empodisma minus</i>	spreading roperush	MSR
<i>Oreobolus</i> spp.	cushion sedge	MSR
<i>Gleichenia alpina</i>	alpine coralfern	GF
<i>Lycopodium fastigiatum</i>	mountain clubmoss	ML
<i>Lycopodium scariosum</i>	spreading clubmoss	ML

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