

Rainforest and Related Scrub

RPP *Athrotaxis cupressoides* rainforest: *Sphagnum* peatland facies

Community Description:

Athrotaxis cupressoides rainforest (RPP) is open or closed montane forest vegetation dominated by *Athrotaxis cupressoides*, where *Nothofagus gunnii* is absent or sparse. The *Sphagnum* peatland variant generally occurs as an open forest over *Sphagnum*. The understorey may include shrubs such as *Richea* species and the sedge *Empodisma minus*. This is one of three benchmarks available to assess the condition of RPP. It is the appropriate benchmark to use in assessing the condition of the *Sphagnum* peatland facies of the listed *Athrotaxis cupressoides* rainforest community (Schedule 3A, Nature Conservation Act 2002).

Benchmarks:

Component	Cover %	Height (m)	DBH (cm)	#/ha	Length (m)/0.1 ha
Canopy	40%	-	-	-	
Large Trees	-	12	60	200	
Organic Litter	40%			-	
Logs			≥ 10	-	20
Large Logs			≥ 30		
Recruitment			Continuous		

Understorey Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover %
Immature tree	IT	1	5
Tree (sub-canopy) or large shrub	T	2	5
Medium shrub/small shrub	S	2	5
Herbs and orchids	H	2	5
Large sedge/rush/sagg/lily	LSR	2	1
Medium sedge/rush/sagg/lily	MSR	1	5
Ground fern	GF	1	5
Mosses and Lichens	ML	1	70
Total	8	12	

Species lists:

Canopy Tree Species	Common Name	Notes
<i>Athrotaxis cupressoides</i>	pencil pine	
<i>Eucalyptus coccoifera</i>	snow gum	Sub-dominant
<i>Phyllocladus aspleniifolius</i>	celery top pine	Sub-dominant

Typical Understorey Species *	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Richea</i> spp.	candleheath	S
<i>Oxalis magellanica</i>	snowdrop woodsorrel	H
<i>Rubus gunnianus</i>	alpine raspberry	H
<i>Astelia alpina</i>	pineapple grass	MSR
<i>Carex</i> spp.	cutty grass	MSR
<i>Carpha alpina</i>	alpine sawsedge	MSR
<i>Empodisma minus</i>	spreading roperush	MSR
<i>Lepidosperma filiforme</i>	common rapiersedge	MSR
<i>Gleichenia alpina</i>	alpine coral fern	GF
<i>Sphagnum cristatum</i>	sphagnum	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.