

Rainforest and Related Scrub

RPW *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland: *Sphagnum* peatland facies

Community Description:

Athrotaxis cupressoides (5–8 m) forms small woodland patches or appears as copses and scattered small trees. On the Central Plateau (and other dolerite areas such as Mount Field), broad poorly-drained valleys and small glacial depressions may contain scattered *A. cupressoides* trees and copses over *Sphagnum cristatum* bogs. In the treeless gaps, *Sphagnum cristatum* is usually overgrown by a combination of any of *Richea scoparia*, *R. gunnii*, *Baloskion australe*, *Epacris gunnii* and *Gleichenia alpina*. 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 *Sphagnum* facies of the listed *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland community (Schedule 3A, Nature Conservation Act 2002).

Benchmarks:

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

Understorey Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover %
Immature tree	IT	1	1
Medium shrub/small shrub	S	3	30
Medium sedge/rush/sagg/lily	MSR	2	10
Ground fern	GF	1	1
Mosses and Lichens	ML	1	70
Total	5	8	

Species lists:

Canopy Tree Species	Common Name	Notes
<i>Athrotaxis cupressoides</i>	pencil pine	Present as a sparse canopy

Typical Understorey Species *	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Epacris gunnii</i>	coral heath	S
<i>Richea scoparia</i>	scoparia	S
<i>Richea gunnii</i>	bog candleheath	S
<i>Astelia alpina</i>	pineapple grass	MSR
<i>Baloskion australe</i>	southern cordrush	MSR
<i>Gleichenia alpina</i>	dwarf coralfern	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.