

Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

Many fruited sedge - bladderwort peatland

These are peatlands influenced by some degree of groundwater enrichment (pH 5-5.5). They are dominated by sedges, of which *Carex lasiocarpa*^S (many-fruited sedge) is the most characteristic. Bladderworts, usually *Utricularia intermedia*^S (flat-leaved bladderwort), are also characteristically present. Other species commonly found in these systems include *Carex lacustris* (a sedge), *Potentilla palustris* (marsh cinquefoil), *Menyanthes trifoliata* (bogbean), *Triadenum virginicum* (marsh St.-John's-wort), *C. stricta* (tussock sedge), *Spiraea latifolia* (meadow-sweet), *Typha latifolia* (common cat-tail), *Thelypteris palustris* (marsh fern), and *Vaccinium macrocarpon* (cranberry).

Related types: The "Sphagnum - beaked rush peatland" type is structurally similar, but lacks the groundwater enrichment that characterizes this type. This type lacks the heavy sphagnum layer that characterizes the previous type. The broad-ranging associate species here are replaced by peatland specialists in the lower-pH type.

Range: Glaciated NE, Glaciated NW, Pocono Plateau, Unglaciated Allegheny Plateau.

Selected references: PNDI field surveys, Sneddon, Anderson, and Metzler 1996, Reschke 1990.

[Crosswalk: Smith's "Poor Fen," TNC's *Carex lasiocarpa* - *Myrica gale* - *Campylium stellatum* Herbaceous Alliance.]