

# Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

## Leatherleaf - bog rosemary peatland

*Chamaedaphne calyculata* (leatherleaf) is the dominant shrub. Associate species include *Kalmia angustifolia* (sheep laurel), *Andromeda polifolia*<sup>S</sup> (bog-rosemary), *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry), *Gaylussacia baccata* (black huckleberry), and *Ledum groenlandicum*<sup>S</sup> (Labrador tea). This type often occurs between a woodland or tall-shrub type and the "Leatherleaf-cranberry peatland" type below. Herbaceous species include *Sarracenia purpurea* (pitcher-plant), *Drosera rotundifolia* (round-leaved sundew), *Rhynchospora alba* (white beak-rush), *Vaccinium macrocarpon* (cranberry), and *Eriophorum virginicum* (tawny cotton-grass). There is usually a continuous sphagnum layer. This type occurs on organic soil, sometimes on a floating mat. This community type may occur as part of the "Acidic glacial peatland complex."

**Related types:** In terms of pH and nitrogen availability, this type is probably intermediate between the other two leatherleaf types. This type is characterized by low mixed ericaceous shrubs and herbs over sphagnum, usually on organic soil.

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

**Selected references:** Crum 1988, Johnson 1985, PNDI field surveys, Reschke 1990.

**[Crosswalk:** Smith's "Oligotrophic Kettlehole Bog," and "Weakly Minerotrophic Lakeside Bog," TNC's *Chamaedaphne Calyculata* Dwarf - Shrubland Alliance.]