
M30

Related vegetation of seasonally-inundated habitats Hydrocotylo-Baldellion Tüxen & Dierssen 1972

Other vegetation of the same general type as the *Hyperico-Potametum* and characteristic of similar, seasonally-inundated habitats with rather base-poor and only moderately enriched waters, undoubtedly occurs in Britain, but it has been very poorly sampled. Some, lacking *Hypericum elodes* but otherwise essentially the same as the *Hyperico-Potametum*, could perhaps be regarded as impoverished stands of that community, though it must be noted that species such as *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Juncus bulbosus/kochii* and *Sphagnum auriculatum* also occur with some frequency in bog-pool and poor-fen vegetation.

Then, there are stands in which *Eleocharis multicaulis* is strongly dominant with little or no *H. elodes* or *P. polygonifolius*, and some at least of these look very similar to the *Eleocharitetum multicaulis* Tüxen 1937 which has been recorded from Eire (Braun-Blanquet & Tüxen 1952, Brock *et al.* 1978, van Groenendael *et al.* 1979; see also Ivimey-Cook & Proctor 1966b) and from other parts of western Europe (Schoof van Pelt 1973,

Dierssen 1975, 1982). White & Doyle (1982) list *Deschampsia setacea* as a characteristic species of such vegetation and this national rarity is certainly typical, in Britain, of this general kind of habitat. *Scirpus fluitans* can also be found dominating in swards which lack some of the most typical *Hyperico-Potametum* plants and, in the New Forest and Cornwall, *Baldellia ranunculoides* is a frequent and conspicuous component of low-growing vegetation in seasonally-wet pools. In the Burren, the latter kind of assemblage was designated the *Baldellio-Littorelletum* by Ivimey-Cook & Proctor 1966b, although there the habitat was characterised by base-rich and calcareous waters.

In the latest revision of the Littorelletalia by Dierssen (1975), all these vegetation types are grouped together with the *Hyperico-Potametum* in the Hydrocotylo-Baldellion alliance, a group comprising assemblages of mesotrophic to oligotrophic, and periodically-fluctuating waters. Other Littorelletalia communities, mostly falling in the Isoetion lacustris and Lobelion dortmannae, are dealt with in the chapter on aquatic vegetation.