OV42
Cymbalaria muralis community
Cymbalarietum muralis Görs 1966

Constant species
Cymbalaria muralis.

Physiognomy
The *Cymbalarietum muralis* comprises often very open and fragmentary crevice vegetation in which little hanging clumps of *Cymbalaria muralis* are the most obvious feature. Indeed, *Cymbalaria* is the only frequent vascular plant in this community. There can be occasional scattered rosettes of small ferns – *Asplenium trichomanes*, *A. ruta-muraria* and *Polypodium vulgare* – together with patches of *Sedum acre*, short trails of *Hedera helix*, isolated tufts of grasses like *Poa annua*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Agrostis capillaris* and *A. stolonifera* and some ephemeral herbs but the consistency and cover of such contributions are never high.

More frequent as a group are mosses with small patches of *Homalothecium sericeum* and tufts of *Schistidium apocarpum*, *Grimmia pulvinata*, *Tortula muralis*, *Bryum capillare* and *Barbula unguiculata* occasional to common in the crevices.

Habitat
The *Cymbalarietum* is characteristic of sunny crevices among the stone- and brick-work of boundary walls and buildings throughout the lowlands of Britain.

Zonation and succession
The *Cymbalarietum* can be found with other kinds of crevice vegetation where walls have been colonised by different mixtures of species tolerant of the extreme conditions of the habitat. In the warmer south and east of Britain, the *Cymbalarietum* can be found with the *Parietarietum* where *Parietaria diffusa* is the distinctive dominant among the crevices, and Segal (1969) saw this as sometimes a successional replacement for the *Cymbalarietum*. On more lime-rich mortar on sunlit walls throughout the lowlands, the community can be replaced by the *Asplenietum* where *Cymbalaria* is rare or absent and small asplenioids and more calcicolous bryophytes and herbs are characteristic.

Distribution
The community occurs widely on suitable habitats throughout the lowlands.

Affinites
Since the *Cymbalarietum* Görs 1966 was first characterised it has been widely described from other parts of continental Europe like The Netherlands (Westhoff & den Held 1969) and Germany (Pott 1982). In Segal's (1969) treatment of wall vegetation, a Gemeenschap van *Linaria cymbalaria* en *Asplenium trichomanis* was placed among the fern communities of a Cymbalario-Asplenion alliance, and some more recent accounts recognising a *Cymbalarietum*, like Mucina *et al.* (1993), follow this proposal.

Floristic table OV42

Cymbalaria muralis	V (2–7)
Homalothecium sericeum	III (2–8)
Schistidium apocarpum	III (1–4)
Grimmia pulvinata	II (2–4)
Tortula muralis	II (1–4)
Asplenium ruta-muraria	II (2–4)
Poa annua	II (2–3)
Sedum acre	II (2–5)
Arenaria serpyllifolia	I (1–3)
Hedera helix	I (3–4)
Polypodium vulgare	I (1–4)
Bryum capillare	I (3)
Agrostis capillaris	I (1–2)
Asplenium trichomanes	I (4)
Dactylis glomerata	I (1–3)
Sonchus asper	I (1–2)
Barbula unguiculata	I (2–4)
Agrostis stolonifera	I (2–3)
Festuca rubra	I (2)
Holcus lanatus	I (1–4)
Poa pratensis	I (1–3)
Saxifraga tridactylites	I (4–5)
Senecio vulgaris	I (1–3)
Urtica dioica	I (1–2)
Valerianella locusta	I (1–4)
Barbula revoluta	I (2)
Bryum argenteum	I (2–3)
Orthotrichum anomalum	I (1–3)
Acer pseudoplatanus seedling	I (1–2)
Taraxacum officinale agg.	I (1–2)
Achillea millefolium	I (2)
Arrhenatherum elatius	I (1)
Brassica napus	I (2)
Buddleja davidii	I (1)
Calystegia sepium	I (3)
Catapodium rigidium	I (3)
Cerastium fontanum	I (1)
Cerastium semidecandrum	I (1)
Tanacetum parthenium	I (1)
Conyza canadensis	I (3)
Crepis capillaris	I (2)
Epilobium montanum	I (1)
Euphorbia peplus	I (1)
Number of samples	24
Number of species/sample	7 (1–20)

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