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## S17

### *Carex pseudocyperus* swamp

#### Constant species

*Carex pseudocyperus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Sparganium erectum*.

#### Physiognomy

*Carex pseudocyperus* can form dense pure stands of emergent vegetation over 1 m tall but it often occurs intermixed with some *Juncus effusus* and *Sparganium erectum*, patchy *Typha latifolia* or *Phragmites australis*, swamp and fen herbs such as *Mentha aquatica*, *Lycopus europaeus* and *Scutellaria galericulata* and Arrhenatherion species in fragmentary jumbles along water margins.

#### Habitat

This vegetation is most typical of shallow, mesotrophic to eutrophic, standing or sluggish waters around lowland ponds, in dykes, canals and slow-moving rivers.

#### Zonation and succession

*C. pseudocyperus* swamp may form a zone in open water adjacent to *Phragmitetum australis* and occur as a raggy

fringe between pasture and streams or ponds. It is also sometimes found in association with the rich-fen vegetation of the *Peucedano-Phragmitetum*.

#### Distribution

*C. pseudocyperus* swamp has a patchy distribution through the central and southern English lowlands and seems to be most characteristic of the Midlands. In East Anglia, *C. pseudocyperus* usually occurs as a component of rich fen rather than as a swamp species.

#### Affinities

This often fragmentary vegetation has rarely been noted as a distinct community but a separate category is retained here to include the swamp occurrences of *C. pseudocyperus* as distinct from those in fens such as the British *Peucedano-Phragmitetum* and similar communities described from The Netherlands (e.g. Westhoff & den Held 1969). *C. pseudocyperus* swamp has affinities with the freshwater vegetation dominated by *C. otrubae* and with the *Sparganietum erecti*.

**Floristic table S17**

<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>	V (5–10)
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	IV (3)
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	IV (4–5)
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	III (4–7)
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	III (1–2)
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	II (3–4)
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	II (7)
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	II (4–5)
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	II (3–4)
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	II (3)
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	II (3)
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	II (1–4)
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	II (1–3)
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	I (3)
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	I (2)
<i>Berula erecta</i>	I (2)
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	I (5)
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I (5)
<i>Galium aparine</i>	I (3)
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I (3)
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	I (2)
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	I (3)
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	I (3)
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	I (3)
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	I (2)
<i>Scrophularia aquatica</i>	I (3)
<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>	I (1)
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	I (1)
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	I (5)
<i>Galium palustre</i>	I (3)
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I (4)
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	I (1)
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	I (3)
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	I (3)
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	I (3)
Number of samples	6
Number of species/sample	9 (7–18)
Vegetation height (cm)	180 (50–250)
Vegetation cover (%)	100