S20
Scirpus lacustris ssp. *tabernaemontani* swamp
Scirpetum tabernaemontani Passarge 1964

Synonymy
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani nodum Adam 1976; *Scirpetum maritimae* (Christiansen 1934) R.Tx. 1937 *sensu* Lee 1977.

Constant species
Scirpus lacustris ssp. *tabernaemontani*.

Physiognomy
In the *Scirpetum tabernaemontani*, *S. lacustris* ssp. *tabernaemontani* always dominates, its tall shoots forming a dense cover generally 80–90 cm high. *S. maritimus* occurs occasionally, although it rarely exceeds a cover of 25%. Scattered beneath are occasional plants of a variety of salt-marsh species such as *Aster tripolium*, *Atriplex prostrata*, *Triglochin maritima*, *Glaux maritima* and *Cochlearia anglica* and species characteristic of disturbed and/or moist soil surfaces, e.g. *Ranunculus sceleratus*, *Juncus bufonius* and *Chenopodium rubrum*. There is occasionally a mat of algae over the substrate surface and around the bases of the *Scirpus* stools.

Sub-communities

Sub-community dominated by *Scirpus lacustris* ssp. *tabernaemontani*. Here the dominant occurs alone or with a very sparse understorey of salt-marsh or freshwater swamp associates.

***Agrostis stolonifera* sub-community.** *Agrostis stolonifera* forms an open mat beneath the *Scirpus* and associates are more frequent and abundant. *Eleocharis uniglumis*, *E. palustris*, *Carex otrubae* and *Oenanthe lachenalii* are differential occasionals.

Habitat
The community occurs most frequently in moist, brackish sites with soft, anaerobic raw gleys of silt or clay. It may be encountered in depressions at various levels on coastal salt-marshes, around flashes in inland saline sites and as emergent vegetation in counter-dikes, warping-drains and as a fringe around some Scottish sea-lochs.

Although *S. lacustris* ssp. *tabernaemontani* appears to be tolerant of salinities similar to those endured by *S. maritimus* (Packham & Liddle 1970) and will survive surface salt efflorescence (Lee 1977), it is also able to grow in standing fresh water and the *Scirpus*-dominated sub-community of the *Scirpetum tabernaemontani* occurs locally inland.

S. lacustris ssp. *tabernaemontani* is grazed by cattle and Lee (1977) considered that this may play some part in confining the community to wetter, less accessible sites. Large-billed grey geese also eat the shoots as well as digging for roots and rhizomes (Ogilvie 1978).

Zonation and succession
Stands are usually well marked off from the surrounding vegetation by virtue of the bulky physiognomy of the dominant, although scattered shoots of dwarf *S. lacustris* ssp. *tabernaemontani* occur widely in a variety of upper-marsh grasslands.

Distribution
S. lacustris ssp. *tabernaemontani* is an under-recorded taxon in Britain. The community occurs on and close to much of the English and Welsh coasts and more sporadically in Scotland. Inland situations are very local throughout the English lowlands.

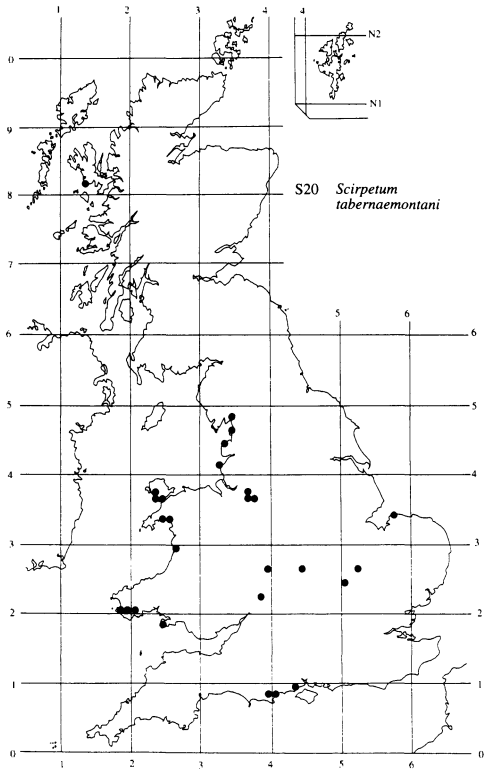
Affinities
The vegetation included here is very similar to that of the *Scirpetum maritimi* and stands in which both *Scirpus* taxa occur are fairly frequent. *S. lacustris* ssp. *tabernaemontani* vegetation is sometimes included within the *Scirpetum maritimi* (Westhoff & den Held 1969) or within the *Scirpetum lacustris*.

Floristic table S20

	a	b	20
Scirpus lacustris tabernaemontani	V (6–9)	V (7–10)	V (6–10)
Puccinellia distans	I (3)		I (3)
Typha angustifolia	I (3–5)		I (3–5)
Rumex hydrolapathum	I (1–4)		I (1–4)
Solanum dulcamara	I (1–4)		I (1–4)
Phragmites australis	I (2–7)		I (2–7)
Puccinellia maritima	I (3–4)		I (3–4)
Ruppia maritima	I (5–8)		I (5–8)
Agrostis stolonifera		V (1–8)	II (1–8)
Eleocharis palustris		II (1–4)	I (1–4)
Carex otrubae		II (2–5)	I (2–5)
Oenanthe lachenalii		II (3–4)	I (3–4)
Eleocharis uniglumis		II (3–4)	I (3–4)
Apium graveolens		I (4)	I (4)
Potentilla anserina		I (3–5)	I (3–5)
Scirpus maritimus	II (2–7)	II (3–5)	II (2–7)
Algal mat	II (4–7)	II (6–8)	II (4–8)
Aster tripolium	I (3–7)	II (3–6)	I (3–7)
Atriplex prostrata	I (3)	II (3–7)	I (3–7)
Triglochin maritima	I (2–4)	II (2–5)	I (2–5)
Glaux maritima	I (3)	II (2–5)	I (2–5)
Cochlearia anglica	I (2)	II (2–3)	I (2–3)
Typha latifolia	I (3–4)	I (4)	I (3–4)
Chenopodium rubrum	I (3)	I (3–4)	I (3–4)
Ranunculus sceleratus	I (1)	I (1–2)	I (1–2)
Juncus bufonius	I (4)	I (3)	I (3–4)
Spartina anglica	I (2)	I (2)	I (2)
Juncus gerardi	I (4)	I (3)	I (3–4)
Number of samples	32	15	47
Number of species/sample	3 (1–8)	7 (3–19)	5 (1–19)
Vegetation height (cm)	90 (60–200)	80 (50–150)	87 (50–200)
Vegetation cover (%)	84 (60–100)	86 (70–100)	84 (60–100)

a *Scirpus lacustris tabernaemontani*-dominated sub-community
b *Agrostis stolonifera* sub-community
20 *Scirpetum tabernaemontani* (total)

https://doi.org/10.1017/9781107340817.050 Published online by Cambridge University Press



https://doi.org/10.1017/9781107340817.050 Published online by Cambridge University Press