

Flora Protection Order - bryophytes

Encalypta raptocarpa

Status: Critically Endangered; listed on the Flora Protection Order

Location: Scarriff, Co. Clare

Species Records

Taxon	Vice County number	Taxon Site	Locality / habitat	Grid Reference	Date	Recorder	Protected site
<i>Encalypta raptocarpa</i>	09	01	Scarriff	R68	1909.	Hibbert, Mrs	Not protected

This is a very vague record and the Discovery map below has not been annotated.

Location (1:50,000 Discovery map)



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Location (6" map)

No map available.

Field Data Sheet

None available.

Aerial photograph

No aerial photograph available.

Site photographs

None available.

Management & Conservation

General

- Competition and shading from other plants
- Erosion if grazing pressure increases

Potential site-specific threats/issues

- *E. raptocarpa* needs to be refound in this area

Excerpt from:
Lockhart, N., Hodgetts, N. & Holyoak, D. (2012). *Rare and Threatened Bryophytes of Ireland*. Belfast: National Museums Northern Ireland Publication No. 028.

RARE AND THREATENED BRYOPHYTES OF IRELAND

Encalypta rhamnoides Schwägr.

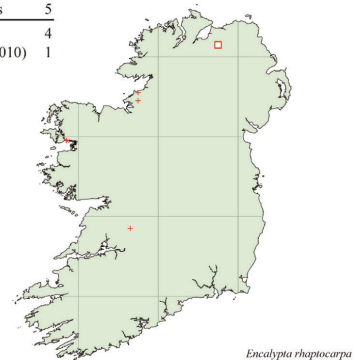
Ribbed Extinguisher-moss

syn. *Encalypta rhamnoides* Schwägr.

Status in Ireland: Critically Endangered (B1a, bi, ii, iv, B2a, bi, ii, iv); **Status in Europe:** Least Concern



Number of Hectads	5
+ Old (pre-1970)	4
Recent (1970–2010)	1



Encalypta rhamnoides

Identification

The broad (more or less lingulate-spathulate), opaque green leaves and the large calyptra, covering the entire capsule, immediately identify this acrocarp as a species of *Encalypta*. Shoots can grow up to about 2 cm tall, usually much less; the leaves are up to 2.5 mm long and the excurrent costa sometimes develops into a hyaline hair-point. The capsules are characteristically longitudinally ribbed when moist, with a calyptra that is papillose at the apex, but not fringed at the base (unlike *E. ciliata*).

Distribution in Ireland

There is currently only a single site for this species in Ireland, near the summit of Benbradagh, Londonderry (1999–2008). It has been recorded elsewhere in the past, but the locational details are imprecise: Clare (Scarriff, 1909); W. Mayo (Mallaranny, 1909); Sligo (Benbulbin and Gleniff, 1817–1963) and Leitrim (Largydonnell, 1909). Records from Antrim are unconfirmed.

Ecology and biology

E. rhamnoides is a species of base-rich rock crevices at moderate to high altitudes and of calcareous dune slacks. At its only known current site in Ireland, *E. rhamnoides* grows on crumbling near-horizontal basalt rock on an open slope near the summit of a hill, at 450 m altitude.

This is an autoicous species in which capsules are produced in abundance. Specialised vegetative reproductive organs are unknown.

World distribution

This species is widespread in N. Europe, particularly in arctic regions, and in montane areas further south. It is listed as *Nationally Scarce* in Britain, *Endangered* in the Czech Republic, *Vulnerable* in Germany and 'sporadic' in Estonia. There are only old records from Albania. In Europe, this species is assigned to a Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane floristic element. It has a similar distribution in N. America and Asia, and also occurs in the mountains of Morocco and Ethiopia.

Threats

While the site on Benbradagh is probably relatively secure, the small populations must be vulnerable to competition and shading from other plants, or erosion if grazing pressure increases. Most of the dunes at Mallaranny have been developed for a golf course, and *E. rhamnoides* has probably been eliminated from this site.

Conservation

E. rhamnoides is listed as a Northern Ireland Priority Species. It could not be refound during recent survey work at other sites where it has been recorded previously, but it is possible that it might yet be refound, especially in the extensive limestone outcrops of the Dartry Mountains.

Protected sites with recent records: none; **Unprotected sites with recent records:** Benbradagh (proposed ASSI).