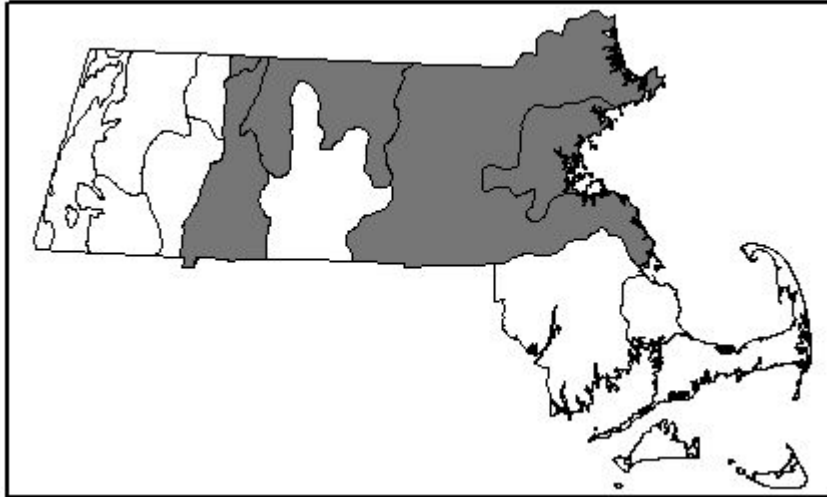


Community Name: CIRCUMNEUTRAL ROCK CLIFF COMMUNITY

Community Code: CT2A2B0000

SRANK: S3



Concept: A community of extremely sparse scattered vascular plants on small ledges and in crevices within a vertical substrate of rocks. Lichens are occasionally dense on the cliff face. Circumneutral Rock Cliff Communities tend to be more diverse than found in Acidic Rock Cliff Communities.

Environmental Setting: Sandstone, traprock, conglomerate or other non-acidic, non-calcareous rock. Dry to moist [variation not well enough known to separate communities]. Often has circumneutral traprock below the cliff, sometimes balds or rock outcrops above. May be shaded by trees of surrounding forest.

Vegetation Description: Species of dry open areas, including pale corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*), bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), plantain-leaved pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), marginal wood-fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), little bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), Rusty cliff-fern (*Woodsia ilvensis*), and mosses. In the area, chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), pasture rose (*Rosa carolina*), and prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: All types of cliffs provide nesting habitat for Ravens (*Corvus corax*) and, in the past, Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) nested on cliffs before being extirpated from Massachusetts in 1955, and the Peregrine Falcons released in urban areas since 1984 have not returned to the natural habitat, although they are breeding in the state. Cliffs were probably the native habitat of the Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). No mammals, reptiles, or amphibians would be expected on the steep cliff faces.

Associated Rare Plants:

ASPLENIUM RUTA-MURARIA	WALL-RUE SPLEENWORT	T
MINUARTIA MICHAUXII	MICHAUX'S SANDWORT	SC
RANUNCULUS MICRANTHUS	TINY-FLOWERED BUTTERCUP	T
SELAGINELLA RUPESTRIS	ROCK SPIKEMOSS	- WL

Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

