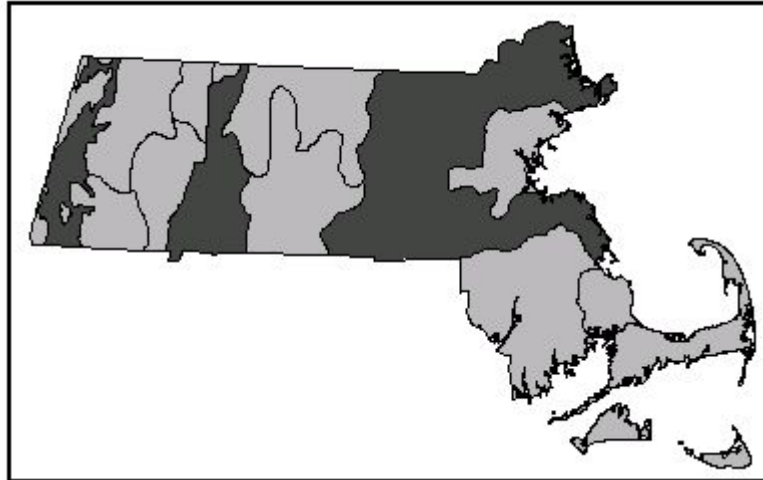


Community Name: MUD FLAT
Community ELCODE: CP2A0B2100
SRANK: S4



Concept: Sparsely vegetated herbaceous community dominated by low, usually annual herbs occurring on muddy streambanks or in shallow water of river backwaters and old oxbow ponds.

Environmental setting: Shallow water or open mud flats along streams, in backwaters, abandoned channels, lagoons, and oxbow ponds. Inundation by spring floods does occur, and the mucky, silty mineral soils are poorly drained.

Vegetation Description: Although often sparsely vegetated, mudflats typically have a high species richness (that is, have a large number of species). Winged (*Mimulus alatus*) and long-stalked (*Mimulus ringens*) monkey-flowers are good indicator species. Large and lesser water-plantains (*Alisma plantago-aquatica* var. *americanum* and var. *parviflorum*), arrowheads (*Sagittaria* spp.), arrow-arum (*Peltandra virginica*), and bur-reeds (*Sparganium* spp.) are often dominant. Other associated species include sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), water-hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*), sweet flag (*Acorus americanus*), wild calla (*Calla palustris*), water-parsnip (*Sium suave*), ditch-stonecrop (*Penthorum sedoides*), water-purslane (*Ludwigia palustris*), awned sedge (*Carex crinita*), river horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), smartweeds (*Polygonum* spp.), and duckweeds (*Lemna* spp.). Floodplain forest trees, such as silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and American elm (*Ulmus americana*), often overhang these communities providing partial cover.

Associations: No associations have been described in Massachusetts.

Habitat values for Associated Fauna:

Associated rare plants:

ELEOCHARIS INTERMEDIA	INTERMEDIATE SPIKE-SEDGE	T
MIMULUS ALATUS	WINGED MONKEY-FLOWER	E

Associated rare animals:

FERRISSIA WALKERI	WALKER'S LIMPET	SC
POMATIOPSIS LAPIDARIA	RIVERBANK LOOPING SNAIL	E

Examples with Public Access: Bennett Meadow WMA; Gill; Hop Brook, Lee; Cone Brook, Richmond.

Threats: True forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*) and moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*) are mat-forming, non-native plant species that can appear to be crowding out native plants. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) can also occur in these habitats.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Management needs: Eradication of moneywort and true forget-me-not, especially in areas where they are associated with winged monkey-flower, a state-protected rare plant species.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: River mud flats sparse vegetation [CEGL002314].

MA [old name]: Not described.

ME: Similar to Riverine emergent community.

VT: River mud shore community.

NH: Not described.

NY: Not described.

CT: Not described.

RI: Not described.

Golet & Larson, 1974: Not described.

Other:

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