

Gippsland Vegetation Types: Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's)

EVC description derived from Davies et.al (2001) Ecological Vegetation Class Mapping at 1:25 000 in Gippsland.

EVC 29 Damp Forest

Damp Forest grows on a wide range of fertile parent rock types on a variety of aspects, from sea level to sub-montane elevations. It is dominated by a tall eucalypt layer over a shrub layer of broad-leaved species typical of wet forest mixed with elements from dry forest types such as prickly or small-leaved shrubs. The ground layer includes forbs and grasses as well as moisture-dependent ferns.

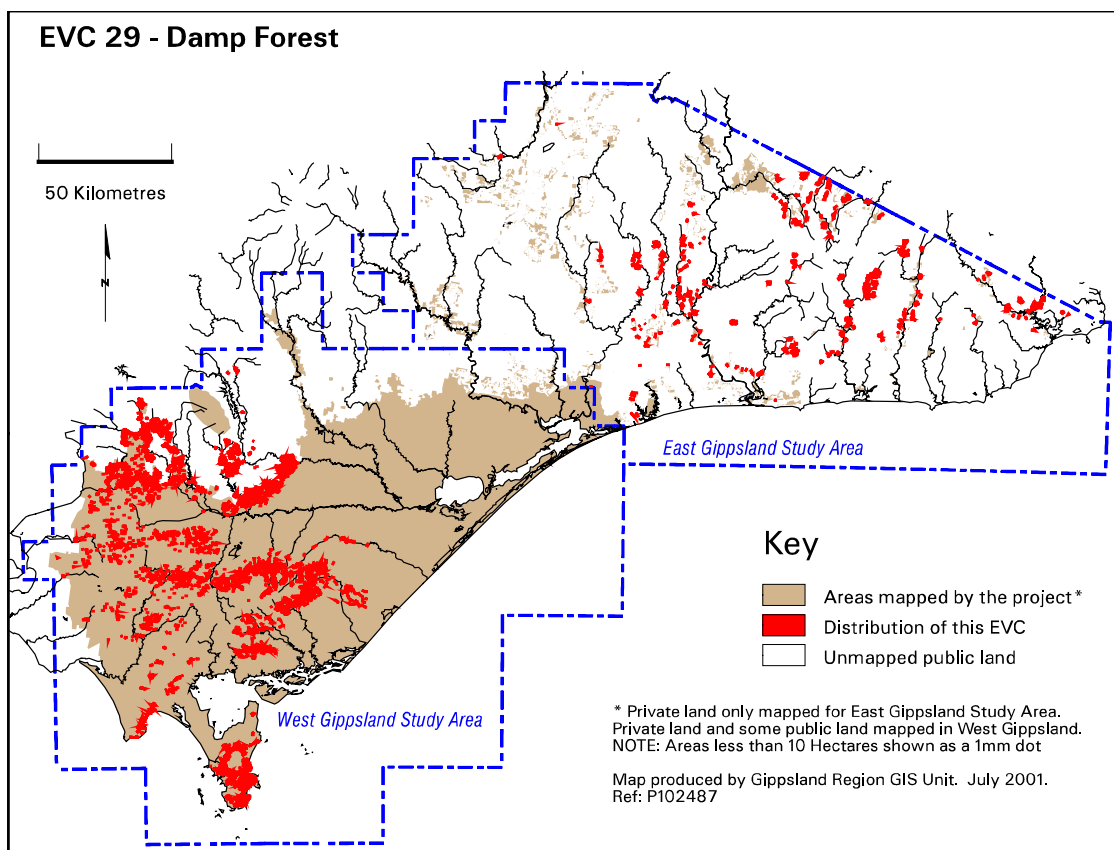


Damp Forest along Mt Elizabeth Tk. Photo: John Davies 1997.



Damp Forest near Telegraph Saddle, Wilsons Promontory. Photo: John Davies 1998.

Elevation (metres above sea level)	Sea level to <1000
Average rainfall p.a. (mm)	800-1600
Topography	Lowlands and foothills, favouring gullies or eastern and southern slopes. In higher rainfall areas and above 700m, it extends out of the gullies onto broad ridges and northern and western aspects due to the effects of increased precipitation, cloud cover and fog drip
Geology	Variable
Soils	Deep and well-structured soils with moderate to high levels of humus in the upper soil horizon
Related/adjacent EVCs/FCs	Wet Forest, Shrubby Foothill Forest, Lowland Forest, Herb-rich Foothill Forest, Warm Temperate Rainforest, Riparian Forest
Present land use	Recreation, timber harvesting, agriculture
Present distribution	Protected slopes of Wilsons Promontory National Park, Walkerville, Strzelecki ranges, foothills of the Central Highlands, Tyers, Erica, Neerim and Noojee. Widespread in East Gippsland occurring near Murrindal in the west of the study area through to past Genoa in the east, and in foothill and montane areas around Cann River and Bendoc respectively.
Examples of sites/quadrats/lists	South-eastern slopes of Bishop Peak (F48765) and Roaring Meg (F48834), Wilsons Promontory National Park, and Cherry Tree Rd, near Nyora (U23436), Tullock Ard Road near Murrindal, Murrungowar Road near Murrungowar, Rising Sun Track near Bonang, and near Marramingo Hill north-west of Genoa.
Total Area(ha)/ Number of polygons	31,041/2751



Vegetation: structure/floristics:

The dominant eucalypts are commonly Messmate *Eucalyptus obliqua* and Mountain Grey Gum *E. cypellocarpa*, with Yellow Stringybark *E. muelleriana* (in South Gippsland) with Sticky Wattle *Acacia howittii* present in the understorey), Silvertop Ash *E. sieberi*, Gippsland Blue Gum *E. globulus* subsp. *pseudoglobulus*, Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *viminalis*, Narrow-leaf Peppermint *E. radiata* (and the closely related Gippsland Peppermint *E. croajingolensis*). Swamp Gum *E. ovata* is common in areas of poorer drainage and at Wilsons Promontory where the hybrid Otway Messmate *Eucalyptus obliqua* x *regnans* occurs. At higher elevations in East Gippsland, Cut-tail *E. fastigata* predominates along with Messmate *Eucalyptus obliqua*. In the far east of the study area White Ash *E. fraxinoides* is a feature of this EVC. Scattered understorey trees of Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon* and occasionally Silver Wattle *A. dealbata* are often present. In East Gippsland, Frosted Wattle *A. frigescens* is often present at elevations above 900m.

The understorey typically includes moisture-dependent fern species such as Common Ground-fern *Calochlaena dubia*, Gristle Fern *Blechnum cartilagineum*, Maiden-hair Fern *Adiantum aethiopicum*, Mother Shield-fern *Polystichum proliferum*. Along the river flats Fishbone Water-fern *Blechnum nudum* may also be found which floristically links this EVC to Riparian Forest. Rough Tree-fern *Cyathea australis* sometimes forms a conspicuous component of the understorey.

Broad-leaved shrub species typical of wet forest are present, mixed with small-leaved and prickly-leaved shrubs from drier forest types. The broad-leaved species include Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera*, Victorian Christmas-bush *Prostanthera lasianthos*, Snow Daisy-bush *Olearia lirata*, Cassinia *Cassinia* spp., Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata*, Elderberry *Panax polyscias sambucifolia* and White Elderberry *Sambucus gaudichaudiana*. Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* is often present in East and South Gippsland. The wet forest shrub, Prickly Currant-bush *Coprosma quadrifida* as well as Tree Lomatia *Lomatia fraseri* and Fireweed Groundsel *Senecio linearifolius* are also common. Drier shrubby elements include Prickly Moses *Acacia verticillata*, Prickly Bush Pea *Pultenaea juniperina*, Narrow-leaf Wattle *Acacia mucronata* and Varnish Wattle *Acacia verniciflua*.

The ground cover often contains a high diversity of palatable herbs and various "wet" fern species. Other species commonly present are Austral Bracken *Pteridium esculentum*, Forest Wire-grass *Tetrarrhena juncea*, Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*, Tall Sword-sedge *Lepidosperma elatius*, Common Woodrush *Luzula meridionalis*, Small-leaf Bramble *Rubus parvifolius*, Slender Tussock-grass *Poa tenera*, Common Tussock-grass

Poa labillardierei Common Hedgehog-grass *Echinopogon ovatus*, Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana* and Mountain Clematis *Clematis aristata*. At the drier end of Damp Forest a number of species start to appear such as Narrow-leaf Peppermint *Eucalyptus radiata*, Narrow-leaf Wattle *Acacia mucronata*, Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, Grey Tussock-grass *Poa sieberiana*, Prickly Tea-tree *Leptospermum continentale*, Tall Sword-sedge *Lepidosperma elatius*, Spiny-headed Mat-rush *Lomandra longifolia* and Thatch Saw-sedge *Gahnia radula*. The sedges Variable Sword-sedge *Lepidosperma laterale* and Tall Sedge *Carex appressa* are sometimes present with the latter occurring in poorly drained areas.

Comments:

Weed invasion of the herbaceous ground cover by species such as Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus*, can be an environmental threat.

Gippsland species list including species frequency and fidelity.

Fidelity: Rating of faithfulness of a species to an EVC or Floristic Community. Highest fidelity rating indicated by an “F” ie species only recorded in respective group.

% Frequency: Percentage occurrence of a species/taxa in an EVC or Floristic Community – **NB. Species highlighted in red are the most frequent and important.**

* = weed ie: non native.

Rarity categories from NRE’s Flora Information System (FIS).

EVC 29: DAMP FOREST

Lifeform	Scientific Name	Common Name	% Fr	Fid
Overstorey Trees	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate	42	4
	<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i>	Mountain Grey Gum	39	8
	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	25	2
	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> s.l.	Narrow-leaf Peppermint	14	0.9
	<i>Eucalyptus muelleriana</i>	Yellow Stringybark	8	2
	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> ssp. <i>pseudoglobulus</i>	Gippsland Blue Gum	6	1
Understorey Trees	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	56	4
	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle	25	5
Shrubs	<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly Currant-bush	94	7
	<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris	67	9
	<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i>	Tree Everlasting	64	7
	<i>Olearia phlogopappa</i>	Dusty Daisy-bush	44	12
	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia	42	7
	<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	Victorian Christmas-bush	39	11
	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia	39	3
	<i>Sambucus gaudichaudiana</i>	White Elderberry	33	5
	<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	Varnish Wattle	28	7
	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses	28	4
	<i>Lomatia fraseri</i>	Tree Lomatia	19	33
	<i>Pimelea axiflora</i>	Bootlace Bush	19	9
	<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisy-bush	19	3
	<i>Bedfordia arborescens</i>	Blanket-leaf	14	5
	<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snow Daisy-bush	14	1
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	11	2	
Climbers/ Vines	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Small-leaf Bramble	47	23
	<i>Clematis aristata</i>	Mountain Clematis	100	7
	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga Vine	33	6
Herbs	<i>Billardiera scandens</i> var. <i>scandens</i>	Common Apple-berry	25	3
	<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	Twining Glycine	19	3
	<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaf Violet	92	5
	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-widgee	69	4
	<i>Geranium potentilloides</i>	Cinquefoil Cranesbill	61	3
	<i>Stellaria flaccida</i>	Forest Starwort	56	6

Lifeform	Scientific Name	Common Name	% Fr	Fid
	<i>Lagenophora stipitata</i>	Common Bottle-daisy	53	2
	<i>Euchiton gymnocephalus</i>	Creeping Cudweed	50	5
	<i>Hydrocotyle hirta</i>	Hairy Pennywort	50	4
	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed	47	1
	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i>	Variable Groundsel	42	4
	<i>Plantago debilis</i>	Shade Plantain	39	12
	<i>Senecio minimus</i>	Shrubby Fireweed	33	7
	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort	33	2
	<i>Luzula meridionalis</i>	Common Woodrush	28	36
	<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	Austral Cranesbill	28	7
	<i>Veronica calycina</i>	Hairy Speedwell	25	4
	<i>Senecio hispidulus</i>	Rough Fireweed	22	6
	<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>	Fireweed Groundsel	22	3
	<i>Leptinella reptans</i>	Creeping Cotula	19	9
	<i>Urtica incisa</i>	Scrub Nettle	19	2
	<i>Desmodium gunnii</i>	Southern Tick-trefoil	17	7
	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Stinking Pennywort	17	2
Tree-ferns	<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Rough Tree-fern	36	6
Ferns	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Austral Bracken	86	2
	<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	Mother Shield-fern	53	7
	<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern	33	28
	<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	Common Maidenhair	33	18
	<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	Common Ground-fern	17	8
	<i>Blechnum nudum</i>	Fishbone Water-fern	14	4
	<i>Pellaea falcata</i>	Sickle Fern	14	3
	<i>Blechnum minus</i>	Soft Water-fern	8	4
Grasses	<i>Tetrarrhena juncea</i>	Forest Wire-grass	83	7
	<i>Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass	75	3
	<i>Poa sp.</i>	Tussock Grass	72	1
	<i>Poa tenera</i>	Slender Tussock-grass	44	18
	<i>Echinopogon ovatus</i>	Common Hedgehog-grass	44	10
Sedges	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	Variable Sword-sedge	50	6
	<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge	31	4
	<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	Common Grass-sedge	25	2
	<i>Lepidosperma elatius</i>	Tall Sword-sedge	17	5
Other	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	17	0.5
Weeds	* <i>Rubus vestitus</i>	Blackberry	53	21
	* <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Cat's Ear	39	0.8
	* <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> s.l.	Creeping Wood-sorrel	34	4
	* <i>Centaureum tenuiflorum</i>	Branched Centaury	33	3
	* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	31	1
	* <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	28	4
	* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	25	6
	* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	25	3
	* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	25	2
	* <i>Rubus polyanthemus</i>	Blackberry	22	17
	* <i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Pimpernel	17	1
	* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort	8	2