

EVC 206 Sub-alpine Grassland

Several floristic communities exist within Sub-alpine Grassland that occurs at elevations of between 1000 – 1200m above sea level. In general terms Sub-alpine Grassland contains few trees although Snow Gum *Eucalyptus pauciflora* is the most common, with Candlebark *E. rubida* and Black Sallee *E. stellulata* also present. Structurally and floristically, Sub-alpine Grassland is dominated by grasses and forbs, with stunted shrubs also present. Shrubs present within the EVC include Mountain Baeckea *Baeckea utilis* s.l., Small-fruit Hakea *Hakea microcarpa*, Myrtle Tea-tree *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, Mountain Milkwort *Comesperma retusum*, Delicate Bush-pea *Pultenaea tenella*, Trailing Beard-heath *Leucopogon pilifer*, Drumstick Heath *Epacris breviflora* and Coral Heath *E. microphylla* s.l..

Graminoids present include Fen Sedge *Carex gaudichaudiana*, Tall sedge *C. appressa*, Short-stem Sedge *C. breviculmis*, Common Bog-sedge *Schoenus apogon*, Mountain Club-sedge *Isolepis subtilissima*, Mountain Cord-rush *Baloskion australe*, Spreading Rope-rush *Empodisma minus*, Southern Woodrush *Luzula modesta*, Grass Trigger-plant *Stylidium graminifolium*, Sickle-leaf Rush *Juncus falcatus* and Broom Rush *Juncus sarophorus*. Bog Snow-grass *Poa costiniana*, Hooker Fescue *Austrofestuca hookeriana*, Thick Bent-grass *Deyeuxia crassiuscula*, Keeled Bent-grass *D. brachyathera*, Graceful Fescue *Festuca asperula* and Smooth Wallaby-grass *Austrodanthonia laevis* are some of the grasses more commonly present.

The ground layer is rich in forbs however their occurrence at all sites is not consistent. Forbs present include Creeping Raspwort *Gonocarpus micranthus* ssp. *micranthus*, Matted St John's Wort *Hypericum japonicum*, Bidgee-widgee *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, Bog Buttercup *Ranunculus pimpinellifolius*, Australian Caraway *Oreomyrrhis eriopoda*, Fringed Caraway *O. ciliata*, Tufted Daisy *Brachyscome scapigera*, Field Daisy *B. decipiens*, Mountain Velleia *Velleia montana*, Showy Violet *Viola betonicifolia* ssp. *betonicifolia*, Mountain Cotula *Leptinella filicula*, Alpine Cotula *C. alpina*, Mountain Pennywort *Hydrocotyle algida*, Waxy Bluebell *Wahlenbergia ceracea*, Orange Everlasting *Bracteantha subundulata* and Bald-seeded Willow-herb *Epilobium curtisiae*. Many of the common forbs including Rosetted Crane's-bill *Geranium antrorsum*, Variable Plantain *Plantago varia*, Hairy Solenogyne *Solenogyne gunnii* and Twin-flower Knawel *Scleranthus biflorus* are rosette-forming, which is an adaptation to the cold environment.

