

Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

Leatherleaf - cranberry peatland

In glacial bogs, this community often occupies the central zone or one of the final zones of rooted vegetation surrounding an aquatic interior (also see "Water-willow (*Decadon verticillatus*) wetland" type). The dominant species are *Chamaedaphne calyculata* (leatherleaf) -stunted form, cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos* and/or *macrocarpon*), and sphagnum. Associates include *Sarracenia purpurea* (pitcher-plant), *Drosera intermedia* (spatulate-leaved sundew), *Drosera rotundifolia* (round-leaved sundew), *Rhynchospora alba* (white beak-rush), *Xyris montana*^S (yellow-eyed-grass), and *Eriophorum virginicum* (tawny cotton-grass). This community type may occur as part of the "Acidic glacial peatland complex."

Related types: The "Leatherleaf - bog rosemary peatland" type may grade into this type, but the overwhelming dominance of stunted *Chamaedaphne calyculata* (leatherleaf) distinguishes this from the taller, more mixed type.

Range: Glaciated NW, Glaciated NE, Pocono Plateau, Unglaciated Allegheny Plateau.

Selected references: Crum 1988, Johnson 1985, Reschke 1990.

[Crosswalk: Smith's "Oligotrophic Kettlehole Bog" and "Nonglacial Bog," TNC's *Chamaedaphne Calyculata* Dwarf - Shrubland Alliance.]