

## SP10

### Tamarack / Wild raisin / Schreber's moss

*Larix laricina* / *Viburnum nudum* /  
*Pleurozium schreberi*

n=3



Stubbart Road, Margaree,  
Inverness County

**Concept:** This early successional Vegetation Type (VT) has an overstory dominated by tamarack along with scattered white spruce. The susceptibility of tamarack to several defoliating insects reduces the likelihood this VT will attain advanced maturity. Tamarack / Wild raisin / Schreber's moss usually follows stand-replacing disturbances such as fire, windthrow or harvesting.

**Vegetation:** Tamarack is the dominant overstory tree. The shrub layer consists mainly of wild raisin and regenerating black spruce. Typical woodland flora are found in the herb layer, along with species associated with past harvesting (e.g. asters, goldenrods, grasses and sedges). The bryophyte layer includes Schreber's moss, hair-cap moss, plume moss and broom moss. Moss coverage is often interspersed with needle carpet.

#### Ecological Features

This early successional ecosystem is a closed-canopy small-patch forest occurring in eastern Nova Scotia. Tamarack has a dense, strong wood, with high decay resistance, which contributes to the development of substantial coarse woody material, particularly when higher

mortality occurs after insect predation, disease, or blowdown and breakage in wind storms. Tamarack is very intolerant of shade and will not regenerate under a closed canopy. Tamarack seeds are eaten by purple finches, and red and white-winged crossbills. Small mammals

cache fallen cones, while porcupines and snowshoe hare eat tamarack bark. The larch sawfly periodically reaches epidemic levels, defoliating trees over successive years. The larch slippery jack fungus forms a mycorrhizal relationship with larch and often fruits abundantly in the fall.

## Characteristic Plants

SP10

	Freq. (%)	Cover (%)
Tamarack	100	46.0
White spruce	100	3.3
White birch	67	4.0
Balsam fir	33	30.0
Black spruce	33	4.0
<b>Tree Layer (Mean % Cover)</b>		<b>63</b>
Black spruce	100	4.0
Wild raisin	100	1.0
False holly	67	0.8
Lowbush blueberry	67	0.1
Mountain-ash	67	0.1
Red maple	67	0.1
Balsam fir	33	7.0
Lambkill	33	5.0
Tamarack	33	3.0
White spruce	33	1.0
Pin cherry	33	0.1
Red-berried elder	33	0.1
<b>Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover)</b>		<b>11</b>
Starflower	100	0.1
Wild lily-of-the-valley	67	1.6
Goldthread	67	1.0
Evergreen wood fern	67	0.4
Bunchberry	33	7.0
Common speedwell	33	3.0
Brownish sedge	33	1.0
Three seeded sedge	33	1.0
Bladder sedge	33	0.1
Calico aster	33	0.1
Cinnamon fern	33	0.1
Common woodrush	33	0.1
Dwarf raspberry	33	0.1
Ground pine	33	0.1
Hair fescue	33	0.1
Hickey's club-moss	33	0.1
Ox-eye daisy	33	0.1
Pine-sap	33	0.1
Poverty grass	33	0.1
Rough goldenrod	33	0.1
Shinleaf	33	0.1
Spreading sedge	33	0.1
Tall white aster	33	0.1
Violets	33	0.1
<b>Herb Layer (Mean % Cover)</b>		<b>7</b>
Broom moss	100	0.2
Schreber's moss	100	43.3
Hair-cap moss	100	1.3
Plume moss	100	0.5
Stair-step moss	67	16.5
Wavy dicranum	67	2.0
Hypnum moss	33	2.0
Shaggy moss	33	0.5
Bazzania	33	0.1
Common green sphagnum	33	0.1
Dicranums	33	0.1
Pin cushion moss	33	0.1
Fine sphagnum	33	0.1
<b>Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean % Cover)</b>		<b>59</b>

## Distinguishing Features

A softwood forest dominated by tamarack on well to imperfectly drained soils and not found on old field sites. Asters, goldenrods, sedges and grasses are common in the understory.



Tamarack

## Site Characteristics

Slope Position:	Level <sup>10</sup>
Surface Stoniness:	(Non - Slightly) <sup>7</sup> (Very - Excessively) <sup>3</sup>
Bedrock Outcrop:	(Non-rocky) <sup>10</sup>
Elevation Range:	37 - 70m
Slope Gradient:	Level <sup>10</sup>
Aspect:	East <sup>3</sup> None <sup>7</sup>
Exposure:	Moderate <sup>10</sup>
Microtopography:	Moderately <sup>10</sup>
Drainage:	Imperfect <sup>3</sup> Moderately well <sup>3</sup> Well <sup>3</sup>

## Soil Characteristics

Soil Type:	ST2 <sup>7</sup> ST3 <sup>3</sup>
Parent Material:	Glacial till <sup>7</sup> Glaciofluvial <sup>3</sup>
Rooting Depth (cm):	(30-45) <sup>7</sup> (>45) <sup>3</sup>
Duff Thickness (cm):	(0-5) <sup>3</sup> (6-10) <sup>3</sup> (11-20) <sup>3</sup>

