



Many species have high rates of endemism. *Almalea incurvata*, inconspicuous when not in flower, is common on drier sites between Wentworth Falls and Blackheath.

Indicative species of Blue Mountains Swamps

<i>Acacia terminalis</i>	<i>Almalea incurvata</i>
<i>Baeckea linifolia</i>	<i>Banksia ericifolia</i> subsp. <i>ericifolia</i>
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i> var. <i>spinulosa</i>	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	<i>Drosera binata</i>
<i>Empodisma minus</i>	<i>Entolasia stricta</i>
<i>Epacris obtusifolia</i>	<i>Epacris pulchella</i>
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>
<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>	<i>Gonocarpus teucrioides</i>
<i>Goodenia bellidifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea acanthifolia</i> subsp. <i>acanthifolia</i>
<i>Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus</i>	<i>Hakea teretifolia</i>
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	<i>Lepidosperma limicola</i>
<i>Leptocarpus tenax</i>	<i>Leptospermum grandifolium</i>
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>
<i>Lepyrodia scariosa</i>	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>
<i>Mirbelia rubiifolia</i>	<i>Ptilothrix deusta</i>
<i>Pultenaea divaricata</i>	<i>Sprengelia incarnata</i>
<i>Symphionema montanum</i>	<i>Tetrarrhena turfosa</i>
<i>Xyris ustulata</i>	Source: NSW NPWS



Dense stands of blechnums often indicate a swamp is suffering from some form of degradation



Drosera binata



Gleichenia



Grevillea acanthifolia

Common on water logged sites, *Drosera binata* is a readily identifiable “carnivorous plant” in the ground layer. Gleichenias often form dense and extensive layers to about 50cm. Acanthia is a beautiful “swamp grevillea” of restricted distribution



Swamp floristic structure changes in response to fire. Many shrubs are obligate seeders and release seed in response to fire. Adult plants often die during the fire and the seed released can form a dense shrub layer in the next decade if fire is excluded. This swamp was burnt in October 2002 and a dense shrub layer of hakeas has formed. Rhizomatous sedges (eg. Left. *Lepidosperma limicola*) vigorously resprout from their base in response to fire.



Flora of Blue Mountains Swamps



Blue Mountains swamps are floristically diverse communities. Patchily distributed across the landscape they vary in form from closed sedgeland to dense shrub swamps. Generally flora is sclerophyllous and consists of a combination of sedges, grasses, shrubs, forbs and ferns. Floristic structure, diversity and richness is dependant on, but not restricted to, the variables of rainfall, soil type, fire history and anthropogenic influences at each particular site. Anthropogenic influences include changes to swamp hydrology, increased delivery of nutrients, and regulated fire regimes.



Closed sedgeland



Baumea rubiginosa

The ground stratum of closed sedgelands can reach a height of 1 metre and are more typical of the popular perception of what a swamp community “should look like”. The shrub stratum of many swamps reaches heights of over 2 metres and can be patchily distributed or dominate the vegetation assemblage. Over time, particularly in the absence of fire, tall shrubs will come to dominate a community.



Shrub stratum



Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus

Some species are fairly ubiquitous and common to many sites. These species include *Leptospermum juniperinum*, *Hakea teretifolia*, *Empodisma minus*, *Juncus spp.* and *Baekkea linifolia*. Other readily identifiable and indicator species that occur commonly are *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*, *Gahnia spp.*, *Epacris spp.*, *Banksia ericifolia*, and *Grevillea acanthifolia*. Common ferns are *Gleichenia spp.* and *Blechnum spp.* Interestingly sphagnum mosses which are commonly associated with peat swamps have an extremely limited distribution in the Blue Mountains



Sprengelia incarnata



Empodisma minus



Epacris paludosa



Epacris obtusifolia



Banksia ericifolia