

718252

IRONBOUND RANGE

The Ironbound Range is one of the most prominent features of the southern Tasmanian coast. Interbedded sandstone and poorly sorted conglomerate units of Precambrian age are evident on the walking track from Deadmans Bay to the crest of the range. A small glacial lake on the south eastern (upper) slopes was formed during Pleistocene times when a small ice cap occupied the top of the range (see Map 3).

Sandy clay loam to clay loam uniform soils are common, with peat forming the surface horizon in alpine sites. Soils above an altitude of 600 m often contain abundant 2 to 10 cm rock fragments which probably indicate the lower extent of periglacial solifluction activity.

Brief notes were made on the coastal habitats which cover a relatively minor area of the land system. Protected coastal positions (e. g. the western side of Prion Beach) are often covered by mixed forest with the following species; *Eucalyptus nitida*, *E. globulus*, *Eucryphia lucida*, *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *Trochocarpa* sp., *Coprosma nitida*, *Cyathodes juniperina*, *Anopterus glandulosus* and *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*. Above Menzies Bluff increased exposure to the wind and salt spray has produced a hardy low woodland to woodland of *Banksia marginata*, *Leptospermum* sp., *Olearia lepidophylla*, *Gahnia grandis*, *Monotoca glauca* and *Melaleuca squarrosa*. Sclerophyllous vegetation extends from the plains up the more exposed eastern slopes where fires are more likely to occur. Rainforest covers other slopes of the land system and canopy heights decrease with altitude until at about 800 m scrub dominated by *Nothofagus cunninghamii* occurs. Moss is common on fallen logs and together with other epiphytes (e. g. *Hymenophyllum* sp. and *Grammitis* sp.) extend up some tree trunks. Large trunks and roots were found between 600 and 700 m providing evidence perhaps for an earlier taller forest than the "stunted" rainforest which presently exists. *Athrotaxis selaginoides* litter was observed at about 400 m, but no living specimens were located. The only King Billy (*Athrotaxis selaginoides*) observed was at about 900 m where

it occurred with *Olearia pinifolia*, *Astelia alpina*, *Billardiera longiflora*, *Leucopogon collinus* and *Melaleuca squamea*, none of which occurred in the crest site.

A mosaic of vegetation stripes (often behind rock outcrops) formed mainly by *Eucalyptus vernicosa* and *Epacris serpyllifolia*, are usually separated by a carpet of cushion plants in exposed (crest) areas. These provide evidence of the frequent strong winds that occur at these altitudes, as do areas of feldmark where soil horizons have been exposed. Snow bank sites were not investigated during field work but higher southerly aspects may collect snow over winter. These banks may last into summer. Snow bank areas have been identified from aerial photographs immediately north of the glacial lake on the upper south eastern slopes.

Landslips and the loss of peat through burning are two soil degradation problems in the area. Landslips, which have occurred recently, appear to be confined to mid and upper slope positions. High precipitation, freeze/thaw action, and steeply dipping bedrock probably encourage this phenomenon. Neighbouring land systems which lack well developed mineral soils are not effected by landslips.

The boundary of this land system with 817251 (De Witt Range Land System) to the west, corresponds with the contact of quartzite (817251) and sandstone/conglomerate (718252) deposits. Soil profiles on quartzite have a gravelly base but are dominated by organic horizons. These soils and the associated sedgeland/heath vegetation are likely to dry out more quickly and so have a higher fire frequency than those of the Ironbound Range Land System which are dominated by clay or clay loam mineral soils with rainforest or mixed forest cover.

This land system is covered by the South West National Park. Track erosion is a problem on the southern slopes of the Ironbound Range. It is also a problem in the subalpine heaths where root exposure is common while on the crests trampling has destroyed vegetation exposing mineral substrates to erosive forces. Mineral soils which typically develop on Precambrian sediments are particularly vulnerable to rill erosion which is initiated by trampling and then extended by concentrated water flow and further trampling.

LAND SYSTEM
IRONBOUND
RANGE

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Area (ha) : 5157



ALTITUDINAL RANGE (m)	300-600	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm) 1500-2000		
SITE NO. /ALTITUDE (m) /ASPECT	No detailed site date	9/600/SE	10/800/SE	11/900/S
TOPOGRAHY	Rugged Mountainous Terrain			
Position	Lower slopes	Protected slopes and crests	Exposed upper slopes	Exposed crests
Typical Proportion (%)	10-20 30	15-30 60	20-30 5	0-10 5
GEOLOGY	Relatively unmetamorphosed Precambrian sandstone and conglomerate. Glacial features at high altitude			
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Closed-forest (mixed)	Closed to low closed-forest to woodland	Open to closed-scrub	Open to closed-heath/ bolster moorland
Floristic Association (See Appendix 1 for common names)	No Tasforhab data tut Nothofagus cunninghamii dominates with Aristotelia peduncularis, Anodopetalum biglandulosum and Monotoca glauca common in the understorey. Eucalyptus nitida on some easterly slopes and ridges.	Nothofagus cunninghamii. Eucryphia milliganii Atherosperma moschatum Phyllocladus aspleniifolius Anodopetalum biglandulosum Anopterus glandulosus Aristotelia peduncularis	Nothofagus cunninghamii Telopea truncata Drimys lanceolata Baeckea leptocaulis Richea scoparia R. sprengelioides Bauera rubioides Eucryphia milliganii Orites diversifolia Melaleuca squamea	Epacris serpyllifolia Eucalyptus vernicosa Carpha curvata Richea scoparia Orites revoluta Bellenden montana Donatia novae-zelandiae Sprengelia incarnata var montana Euchrasia kingii. E. hookeri Oreobolus pumilio Diplaspis cordifolia
SOIL Surface(A or P horizon) Colour (moist and texture)	Organic	Dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/2) sandy clay loam. Often with an overlying organic layer	Dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy clay loam, often with an overlying organic layer over dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) clay	Dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/2) fibrous peat over gravels in places
Subsoil (B horizon) colour (moist) & texture	Yellow-brown clay	Dark brown (10 YR 3/3) clay loam	-	Olive brown (2.5 YR 4/4) sandy clay loam
Primary Profile form	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform
Depth surface horizon(m)	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.05
Typical total depth(m)	>0.60	>0.30	0.25	0.30
Permeability	low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
LAND USE	Nature conservation, recreation			
HAZARD	High track			
	Moderate landslips, moderate sheet			Moderate sheet erosion hazard

Photo 34



The exposed upper slope component

Photo 35



The view south west from the crest of the Ironbound Range to DeWitt and Maatsuyker Islands



The boundary between the Louisa Plains and Ironbound Range Land Systems occurs between the plains and slopes/ridges.