

MAYO VICE-COUNTY BOUNDARIES (Synnott 1986):

The vice-county boundaries are as defined by Praeger (1901) and clarified by Webb (1981), being essentially as illustrated in the map which forms the frontispiece to *Irish Topographical Botany* (Praeger 1901) and which was reproduced with some place-name changes in the *Census Catalogue of the Flora of Ireland* (Scannell & Synnott 1972).

A number of changes in county boundaries resulted from the Irish Local Government Act of 1898. No account was taken of the changes affecting the Mayo border by Praeger (1901) when he adapted Babington's suggestion (1859) for a division of the country for botanical recording.

Three changes in the Mayo boundary did take place as a result of the 1898 Act:

1. Part of the modern boundary between West Mayo and Connemara is further south than the older one on which the vice-county is based. The eastern slopes of Maumtrasna, including Lough Nadirkmore and all of the Owenbrin River and the shores of Lough Mask to about Churchfield, although now in Mayo for administrative purposes, belong to the vice-county of West-Galway (H 16), and records from this area have been included in the *Flora of Connemara and the Burren* (Webb & Scannell 1983).

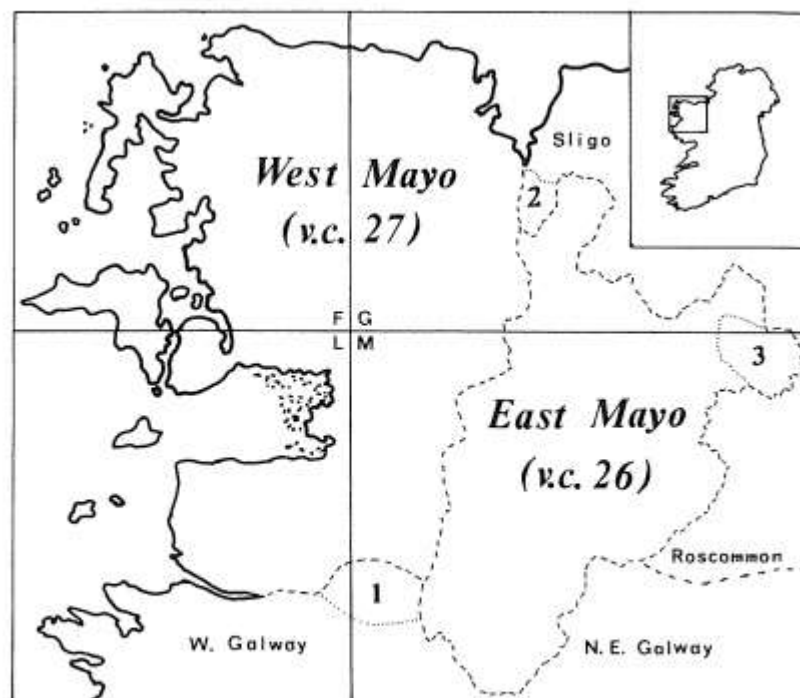


Fig. 1. The vice-counties of Mayo. The areas numbered 1, 2, 3 are those areas where the vice-comital boundaries differ from those of the modern administrative county of Mayo.

2. "An area on the east bank of the River Moy opposite Ballina, transferred in 1898 from Sligo to Mayo but still in vice-county H28, Sligo" (Webb 1981). The area has not been much botanised.
3. On the east side of the county there is an area to the west of Lough Gara which has been transferred to County Roscommon but which belongs to the vice-county of East Mayo (H26).

This area includes the town of Ballaghaderreen from where many of Praeger's first records for vice-county 26 were reported.

The boundary between East and West Mayo was first defined by Babington (1859). This definition was accepted by Praeger (1901). A more precise definition of the boundary was given by Webb (1981) and is repeated here:

“The line separating H26 from H27 runs from near the middle of Lough Mask to the mouth of the Cloon River at the northern end of the lake, then up this river and its tributary through Cooley Lough, Ballyhean Village and Buncam Lough to the small lake immediately west of the hamlet of Tully. From here it follows the road to Castlebar, then down the Castlebar River, across Lough Cullin and down the River Moy till it meets the former boundary with County Sligo 2~ miles above Ballina”.

References

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