

EUPHORBIA POLYGONIFOLIA L.
Seaside Spurge

FAMILY: Euphorbiaceae

SYNONYMS: *Chamaesyce polygonifolia* (L.) Small.

HABIT: Annual herb, stems usually prostrate, to 2.5 dm.; flowering July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Euphorbia polygonifolia* is the only member of the genus likely to be found in its habitat in Ohio. Non-flowering plants resemble mats of the common Knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*).

TOTAL RANGE: Along the Atlantic from Quebec to GA, and of the Great Lakes, probably excluding Lake Superior.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Erie, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, and Ottawa counties. Pre-1980 records from Cuyahoga County.

HABITAT: Sand dunes and sandy beaches of the Atlantic and the Great Lakes. See range map in Guive and Voss (1963).

HAZARDS: Destruction of beach and dune habitat

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably not good due to the limited amount of available habitat in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: There is a taxonomic problem with *Euphorbia* subgenus *Chamaesyce*, of which this species is a member. Webster (1967) treats it as *Chamaesyce polygonifolia* (L.) Small.

Contact with the sap of this plant may cause dermatitis similar to that induced by poison ivy.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Guive, K. and E. Voss. 1963. Distributions of distinctive shoreline plants in the Great Lakes Region. Michigan Botanist 2: 99-114.

Webster, G.L. 1967. The genera of the *Euphorbiceae* in the southeastern United States. J. Arn. Arb. 48: 303-429.

Wheeler, L.C. 1941. *Euphorbia* subgenus *Chamaesyce* in Canada and the United States exclusive of Florida. *Rhodora* 43: 97-205.



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