GARBER'S SPURGE
Euphorbia garberi Engelm. ex Chapman
Synonyms: *Chamaesyce brachypoda* Small; *Chamaesyce mosieri* Small; *Chamaesyce garberi* (Engelm. ex Chapman) Small; *Chamaesyce keyensis* Small (pro hyb.); *Euphorbia porteriana* (Small) Oudejans var. *keyensis* (Small) Oudejans
Family: Euphorbiaceae (spurge)
FNAI Ranks: G1/S1
Legal Status: US-Threatened; FL-Endangered


Gil Nelson

Field Description: Robust, perennial **herb**, softly hairy throughout, with wiry, erect (occasionally prostrate) **stems** up to 30 cm long. **Leaves** to 13 mm long, oval, opposite, with very short stalks and entire or minutely toothed margins. **Cyathia** (small cup-like structures holding **flowers**) solitary in leaf axils. **Gland appendages** typical of the spurge family are absent or minute and are all the same size. **Fruit** is 3-lobed and hairy.

Similar Species: Garber's spurge is distinguished from the many species of *Chamaesyce* in south Florida by its overall hairiness, solitary cyathia, and relatively thicker stems. This species is similar in appearance to Chamaesyce porteriana. The very short (viewable with 10x magnifica-tion) soft hairs of Garber's spurge distinguish it from its close relative. Plants are relatively short lived perennials, and populations are known to fluctuate in response to storms (Herndon 1998).

Garber's spurge ***Euphorbia garberi***

Related Rare Species: See Porter's spurge (*Chamaesyce porteriana*) and deltoid spurge (*Chamaesyce deltoidea*) in this guide.

Habitat: Sandy soils over limestone in pine rocklands, hammock edges, tidal rock barrens, grass prairies, salt flats, and beach ridges and swales.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to South Florida.

Conservation Status: Habitat loss to housing and agriculture, fire suppression, and exotic invasion is severe. The documented distribution of Garber's spurge was significantly altered between the 2005 and 2011 surveys at Naval Air Station Key West. In 2005, plants were only observed along the beach road, but in 2011 this population appeared to be extirpated. Two new sites were found, however, and plants appeared to be thriving in those locations.

Protection and Management: Burn pine rockland every 3 - 7 years; eradicate exotic pest plants; locate and purchase unprotected sites for preserves.

References: Burch 1966, Coile 2000, Herndon 1989, Herndon 1993, IRC 1999, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

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