

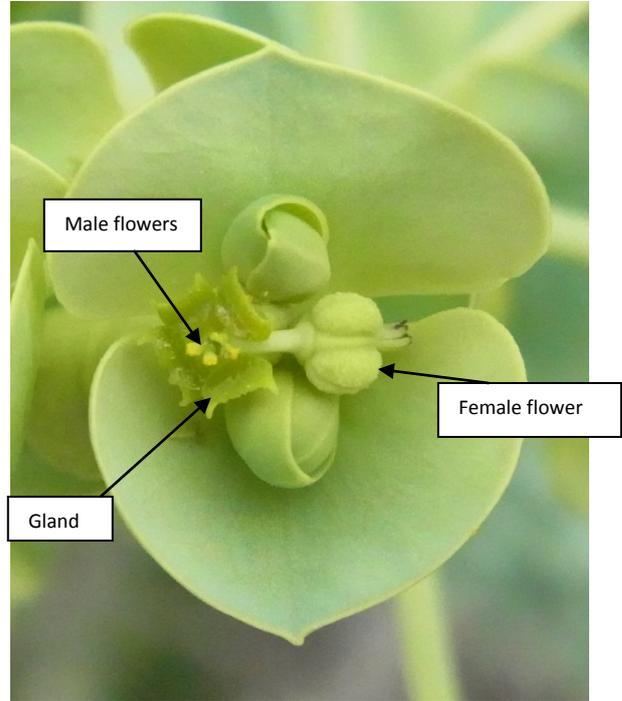
Euphorbia paralias
Commonly: Sea Spurge
Vascular Plant Family: Euphorbiaceae

Flowers in summer

Euphorbia paralias is a perennial herb up to 50cm tall, bluish-green in colour. There are many, slightly fleshy leaves up to 15mm long and 5mm wide spreading at right angles to the stem. The white sap is poisonous and an irritant. It is native to the coasts of western and southern Europe and is naturalized on the coastal sands at Peppermint Grove Beach.



flower has 3 styles which branch in the middle.



The inflorescence is a flat-topped cluster with 3-5 branches.



The flowers are unisexual in heads of 1 female and several male flowers, surrounded by bracts and alternating with glands to form an involucre. The glands are crescent shaped with 2 short horns. The male flowers consist of 1 flower, occurring in a cluster. The female

The fruits are deeply grooved and wrinkled, about 5mm across. They are 3-lobed and split into 3 segments and containing 1 seed per segment.



The fruits open explosively and are dispersed by water, sand and wind. It has a high environmental impact on the natural bushland species. The buoyant, salt tolerant seeds are believed to survive several years in the ocean.

*Indicates it is a weed