

****Euphorbia peplus***

Commonly: Petty Spurge

Vascular Plant Family: Euphorbiaceae

Flowers from winter to summer

Euphorbia peplus is an erect or prostrate annual herb up to 30cm tall. The stalked oval leaves vary from 5-15mm in length and up to 10mm in width. The white sap is poisonous and an irritant. It is native to Europe but is now widely naturalised.



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

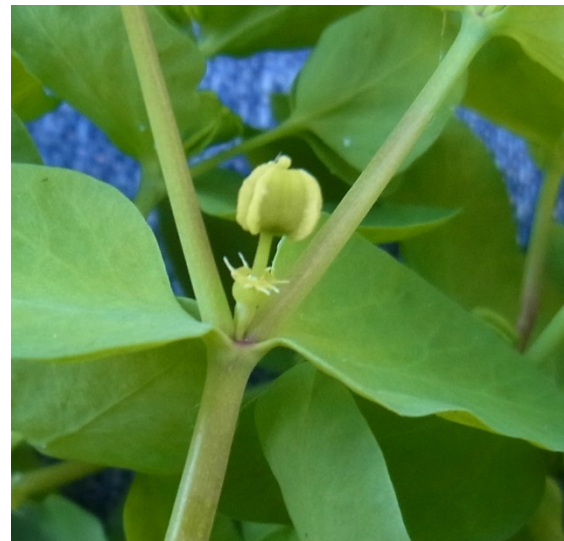


The flowers are unisexual in heads of 1 female and several male flowers surrounded by bracts alternating with glands to form an involucre. The glands are crescent shaped, yellow, with 2 long white horns. The male flowers consist of 1 flower, occurring in a cluster. The female flower has 3 styles which are deeply forked.



1 = the 4 crescent shaped glands with 2 white awns

2 = female flower



The fruits are about 2mm across. They are 3-lobed each with 2 narrow wings. At maturity they split into 3 segments each containing 1 seed.

*Indicates it is a weed