

Euphorbia terracina

Commonly: Geraldton Carnation Weed

Vascular Plant Family: Euphorbiaceae

Flowers in summer

Euphorbia terracina is an erect, branching perennial herb up to 60 cm tall. The white sap is poisonous and an irritant. It is native to the Mediterranean Region but extends from north of Geraldton to Esperance in disturbed areas, usually close to the coast. I have found this species in one location at Peppermint Grove Beach but once established it is able to invade relatively good condition bushland. It is recorded as having a high ecological impact and should be controlled once it is located.



The leaves are scattered, linear from 30-60mm long and up to 5mm wide with the margins slightly toothed near the apex

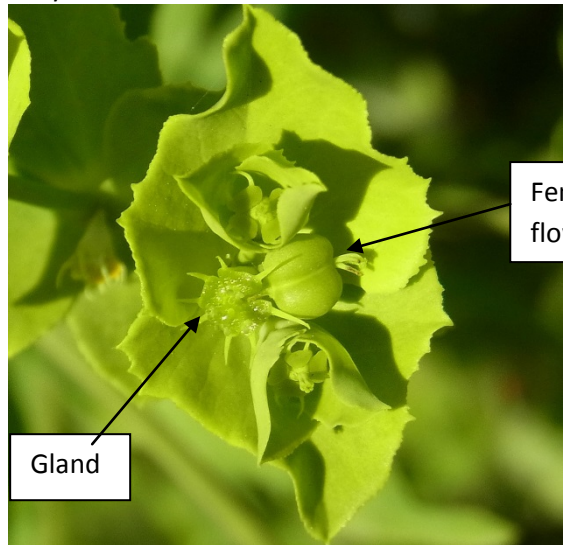


*Indicates it is a weed

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 alternating with glands to form an involucre. The glands have 2 long slender awns. The male flowers consist of 1 flower, occurring in a cluster. The female flower has 2 styles which branch to the middle.



The fruits are grooved about 4mm across. They open explosively and can be distributed by birds, ants, machinery etc.

