

## GARBER'S SPURGE

*Chamaesyce garberi* (Engelm. ex Chapm.) Small

**Synonyms:** *Euphorbia garberi* Engelm. ex Chapm.

*Chamaesyce brachypoda* Small

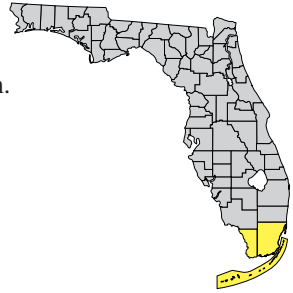
*Chamaesyce mosieri* Small

**Family:** Euphorbiaceae (spurge)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

**Legal Status:** US—Threatened FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Robust, perennial **herb**, softly hairy throughout, with wiry, erect (occasionally prostrate) **stems** up to 12 inches long. **Leaves** to 0.5 inches 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.

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

## Garber's spurge

## *Chamaesyce garberi*

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

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to FL.

**Conservation Status:** Habitat loss to housing and agriculture, fire suppression, and exotic invasion is severe; only a dozen populations are protected in 9 parks and preserves.

**Protection & 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.

