PORTER'S BROAD-LEAVED SPURGE

Chamaesyce porteriana Small

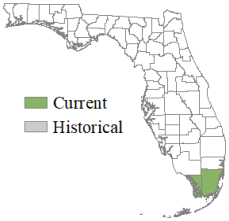
Synonyms: *Chamaesyce porteriana* Small var. *keyensis* (Small) Burch; *Chamaesyce porteriana* Small var. *scoparia* (Small) Burch

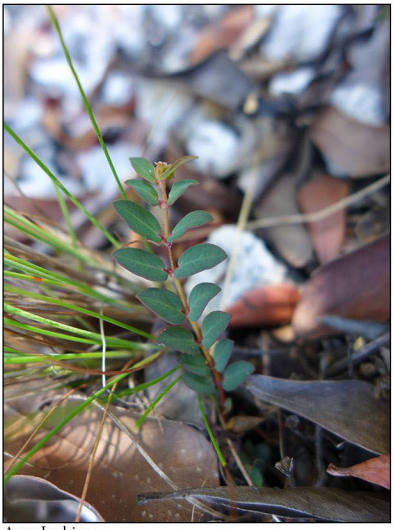
Family: Euphorbiaceae (spurge)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FACW*+ FL-UPL





Amy Jenkins

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Field Description: Perennial **herb**, smooth and hairless throughout, with several erect (sometimes prostrate), waxy **stems** radiating from a taproot or a slightly woody base. **Leaves** to 0.4 inches long, opposite, relatively thick, oval with oblique bases, whitened beneath with a waxy coating, sometimes with red markings; **leaf margins** entire and thickened. **Cyathia** (small cup-like structures holding **flowers**), one to several in angle of leaf and stem, with tiny, red or green glands. **Fruit** 3-lobed, smooth. This small annual is usually erect, often developing modest branching, growing up to about a foot tall. It has a short, stout taproot, often with a slightly woody base. Its slim, waxy stems sometimes become reddish, and unlike many of Florida's sandmats, it is completely smooth and hairless.

Similar Species: Young plants of limestone sandmat (*Chamaesyce blodgettii*) resemble Porter's spurge, but have thinner leaves (some with minute teeth), smaller glands, and prominent leaf stipules. Spurges and sandmats are hard to identify and

use of a technical manual is recommended. This species is similar in appearance to Chamaesyce garberi. It is distinguished by its entirely glabrous fruit.

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

Habitat: Higher elevations within Keys tidal rock barrens, and occasionally found at edges and sunnier open parts of low rockland hammocks and pinelands; marl prairies.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to the Keys and Miami-Dade County.

Conservation Status: Habitat loss to development, fire suppression, agriculture, and exotic plant invasion is extensive.

Protection and Management: Burn pine rockland and marl prairie every 3 - 7 years; avoid disturbing hydrology; exclude off-road-vehicles; eradicate exotic plants; limit coastal development.

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