Euphorbia cyathophora Murray

Family: Euphorbiaceae
Murray, J.A. (1786) Commentationes Societatis Regiae Scientiarum Gottingensis 7: 81. Type: Cultivated plant from seeds of unknown origin?

Common name: Painted Spurge; Dwarf Poinsettia

Stem
Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1-2 m tall.

Leaves
Twigs and petioles produce a milky exudate. Leaf blades about 7-9.5 x 3-3.5 cm. Petioles grooved on the upper surface.

Flowers
One large nectar-producing gland present on the outer surface of each flower cluster. (Flower clusters can be easily mistaken for single flowers.)

Fruit
Capsules about 3-4 x 5-6 mm, glabrous. Seeds about 3 mm long, testa tuberculate.

Seedlings
Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology
An introduced weed originally from tropical America now naturalised in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to coastal central New South Wales. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 800 m. Usually grows on agricultural land but also found in disturbed areas in rain forest.

Natural History & Notes
This species may have medicinal properties.

RFK Code
3259

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