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Euphorbia maculata

[Synonyms : *Chamaesyce maculata*, *Chamaesyce supina*, *Euphorbia supina*]

SPOTTED SPURGE is an annual. Native to North America it has tiny whitish, flower-like glands.

It is also known as Black pusley, Black spurge, Bowman's root, Dysentery-weed, Emetic weed, Euphorbia, Eyebane, Eyebright, *Fläcktörel* (Swedish), *Gemmugha hamra* (Maltese), Milk-purslane, *Pryšec skvrnitý* (Czech), *Pryška skvrnitá* (Czech), Spotted euphorbia, Spotted eyebright, Spotted sandmat, and Spreading spurge.

Warning – internal use is potentially dangerous. It should only be taken internally under the supervision of a qualified practitioner. The irritant milky sap can cause dermatitis.

Maculata is derived from Latin *macula* (spot, stain) meaning 'spotted or blotched'.

According to records spotted spurge featured among the medicines of one or two North American Indian tribes. It was used by both the Costanoan and Cherokee Indians externally on cuts and sores (especially for Cherokee children) and, while the former also used it as an eye wash, it was a Cherokee remedy for toothache. A plant infusion was taken by Costanoan Indians to purify blood, and a decoction was used in treatment for cancer by the Cherokees. The latter also used the plant for treating some venereal diseases, urinary disorders and childbirth problems.

Medicinally, the root has been used locally as a purgative, and as a treatment for dysentery and fluid retention.