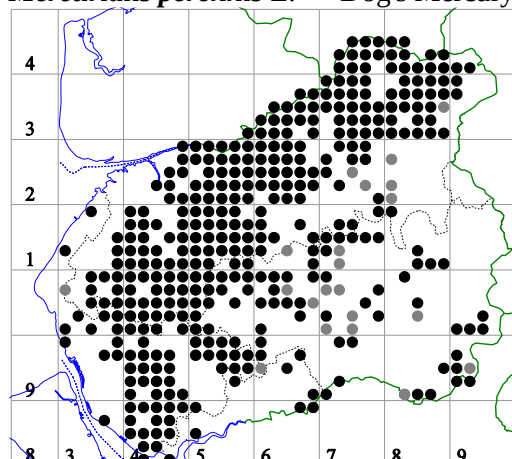


EUPHORBIACEAE Spurge family

Mercurialis perennis L. Dog's Mercury



Hesketh Park DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally common in wooded areas from Liverpool to Foulridge, occasional to locally frequent elsewhere usually within river valleys.

Habitat: In woods, on shaded banks, stream sides, ditch banks and hedge banks especially on clay and basic soils. Recorded at altitude of 300m in upland cloughs.

Mercurialis annua L. Annual Mercury

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, casual in South Lancashire; Southport (SD31N, DP Earl, 1996); Hinchley Green (SD30R, 1999); Nut Grove (SJ49W, 1999); Avondale Road, Darwen (SD62W, P Jepson, 2002); Rimrose Valley (SJ39I, Liverpool Botanical Society, 2004).

Former distribution: Garston Docks (SJ38X, Green 1902, HM Atherton & HF Dovaston, 1935); Prescott (SJ49R, Rev. M Toohey, 1912); The Lido, Ainsdale (SD21W, AG Holder & Mrs. Duckett,

1941); near the Rochdale Canal, Castleton (SD81V, Rev CE Shaw, 1968); Darwen (SD62W, P Jepson, 1975).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, recently sown ground; occasional as a garden weed.

Comments: Short-lived although plants appear to have been recorded at some of the locations on more than one occasion. Male and female plants occurred at Ainsdale Lido growing amongst planted *Ammophila arenaria* in association with *Armeria arenaria* and *Anchua officinalis*.

Ricinus communis L. Castor-oil-plant

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; garden outcast at Deansgate Lane Playing Fields (SD3008, M Dean, 2015).

Former distribution: Trafford Park (SJ79Y, BW Fox, 1959); Stretford Tip (DP Earl, 1983); brick rubble edge of Stanley Sidings Pond (SJ3891, S Bodnar, 1987); Manchester University Campus (SJ8496, M Lapping, 1987, MANCH).

Habitat: Waste heaps and disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to tropical regions and extensively cultivated in Mediterranean Europe. Castor oil is used commercially to produce a variety of products and the Trafford Park record may relate to industrial processes that took place.

Euphorbia maculata L. Spotted Spurge



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Hunts Cross (SJ4385, P Tipping 2019).

Habitat: Amongst pavement cracks in a suburban garden.

Comments: Native to North America.

***Euphorbia corallioides* L.** Coral Spurge

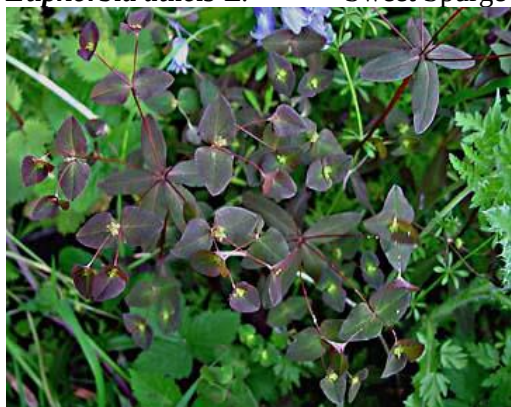


Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; by Parbold level crossing (SD4910, DP Earl, 2001, det. MP Wilcox).

Habitat: On railway track ballast.

Comments: Native to Italy. This species may also have occurred at Wycoller (SD93E, DP & J Earl, 2003) and Bescar Sidings (SD3914, DP Earl, 2009).

***Euphorbia dulcis* L.** Sweet Spurge



Bamber Bridge DP Earl 2011

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Bamber Bridge (SD52T, DP & J Earl, 2011); Heaton Moor (SJ8791, J Clarke, 2012).

Former distribution: Near Blackburn (SD62X, P Jepson? c. 1989).

Habitat: Wood borders near habitation.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Euphorbia oblongata* Griseb.**

Balkan Spurge

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; bank of River Mersey, Stretford (SJ7892, D Bishop, 2011, det. TCG Rich).

Habitat: Riverbank.

Comments: Native to the Balkans and Turkey.

***Euphorbia platyphyllos* L.**

Broad-leaved Spurge

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); probably casual in South Lancashire; garden weed, Green Pastures, Heaton Mersey, Stockport (SJ89Q, J Hodgson, 2002).

Former distribution: Burnage (SJ89R, H Britten, 1923).

Habitat: Disturbed ground.

Comments: It is interesting that plants should be found to the west of Stockport after a gap of 80 years and plants may have remained established in this area but have been overlooked.

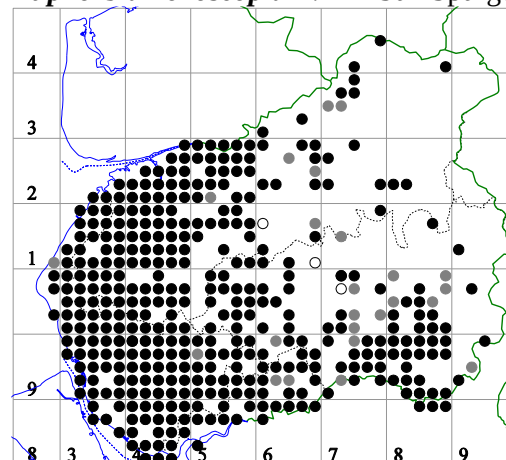
***Euphorbia stricta* L.** Upright Spurge

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; established for a few years at Waterloo Road roundabout, Clitheroe (SD7442, P Jepson, c. 2005) but apparently no longer present.

Habitat: Partially bare ground.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Euphorbia helioscopia* L.** Sun Spurge

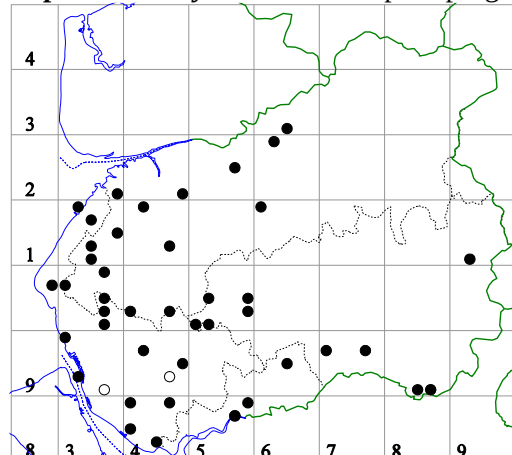


Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally common in lowland districts especially in the west, rare to occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Disturbed ground, arable fields, gardens and flowerbeds.

Euphorbia lathyris L. Caper Spurge



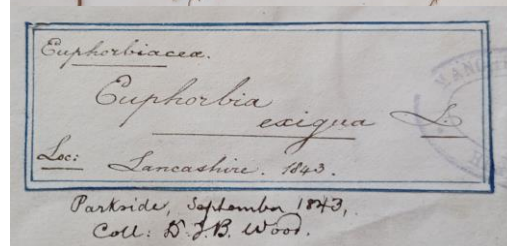
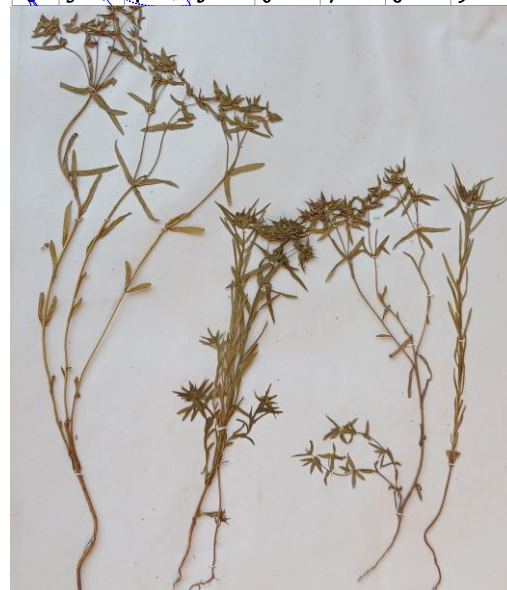
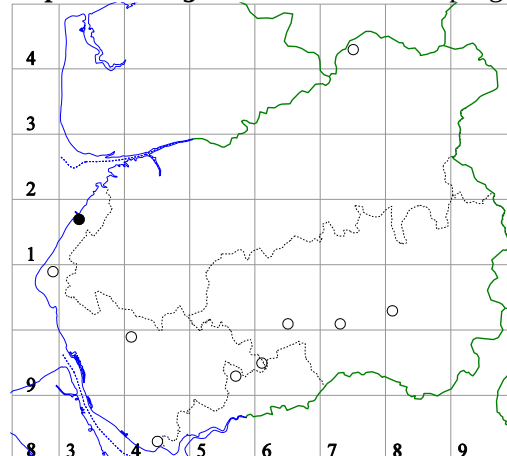
Bretherton DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; a frequent garden escape, which can persist for a few years.

Earliest record traced: Fairfield, Liverpool (SJ39Q, *HS Fisher* 1855).

Habitat: Waste ground, lanes, woods, gardens and more rarely as a weed in cornfields.

Euphorbia exigua L. Dwarf Spurge



Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist; Vulnerable (Red List for England); SCINWE, considered extinct, there is a voucher specimen from Southport Promenade Gardens (SD3317, DP Earl & SP Toone, 1996, BON; DP Earl) where last seen in 1998.

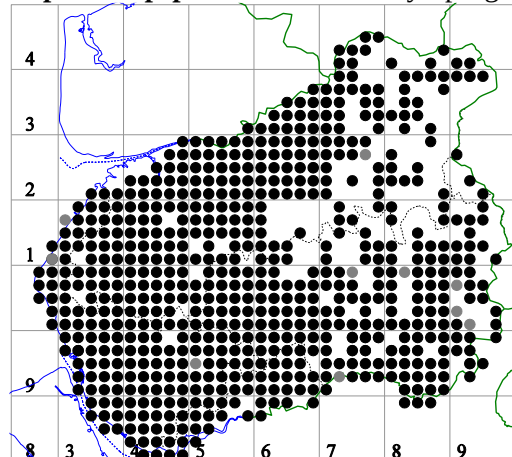
Former distribution: Parkside (SJ69C, JB Wood, 1843); Prestwich (SD80B, *Grindon* 1859); about Leigh (SD60K, J Evans, *Grindon* 1859); Burtonwood (SJ59R, Anon., 1862); Hale (SJ48L, Lancashire Naturalist Field Club, 1880); Clitheroe (SD74L, *Flora of Stoneyhurst* 1891); Kirkby (SJ49E, WG Travis, 1918);

waste ground, Freshfield (SD20Z, Liverpool Botanical Society, 1934); (SD81, WG Travis manuscripts, n.d.).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, arable land and flowerbeds.

Comments: Plants had been known from the Southport area since 1826.

Euphorbia peplus L. Petty Spurge



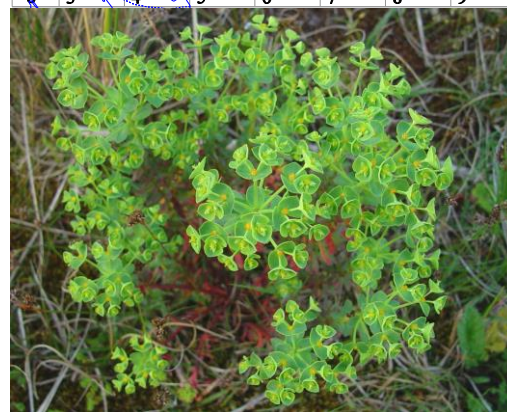
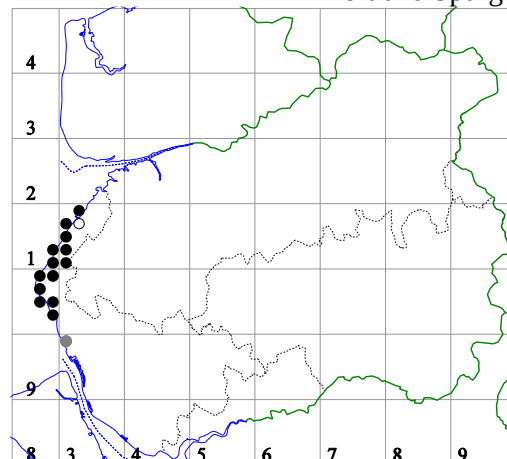
Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread at lower altitudes.

Habitat: Arable fields, waste ground, pavements and garden flowerbeds.

Euphorbia portlandica L.

Portland Spurge

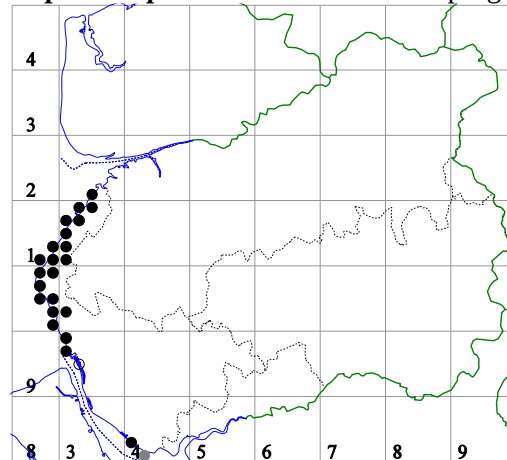


Ainsdale DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Scarce (13), occasional to locally common along the coast from Hightown to Birkdale.

Habitat: Inner sand-dunes in the open dunes and open woodland.

Euphorbia paralias L. Sea Spurge





Formby J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Scarce (22) but locally common along the coast from Seaforth to Crossens; rare elsewhere at Garston (SJ48B).

Habitat: Fore-dunes and sandy ground by the sea.

Euphorbia x *pseudovirgata* (Schur) Soó = *E. esula* L. x *E. waldsteinii* (Soják) Czerep. Twiggy Spurge



Hightown J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; long established at Hightown (SD20W); also known from near Fazakerley (SJ39Z, V Gordon, 1995); Sutton Heath (SJ59G, V Gordon, 1995).

Habitat: Grassy places on previously disturbed ground.

Comments: Neophyte, native to mainland Europe. The earliest record traced is from Hightown (SD20W, GDC Fraser, 1946 det. K).

Euphorbia esula L. Leafy spurge

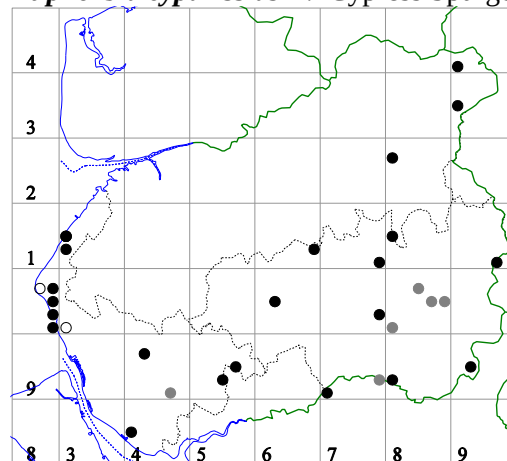
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Visitor Centre at Hightown (SD20W, MP Wilcox, 2003 growing with *E. x pseudovirgata* det. T Walker).

Former distribution: North bank of the River Tame, Stalybridge (SJ99U, F Collier, 1912 det. Dr. A Thellung).

Habitat: Area of ballast.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe. Records from the bank of the Irwell, Broughton (SD80F, DP Earl, 1991); Southport (SD31I, *Darwen Flora* 1936) require confirmation.

Euphorbia cyparissias L. Cypress Spurge



Ainsdale DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widespread most frequent along the coast, local elsewhere.

Earliest record traced: Birkdale (SD31C, JA Wheldon, c. 1900).

Habitat: Sand-dunes, roadsides and waste ground.

Comments: Commonly grown in gardens and no doubt originating as a relic of cultivation as well as from the discarding of garden refuse.

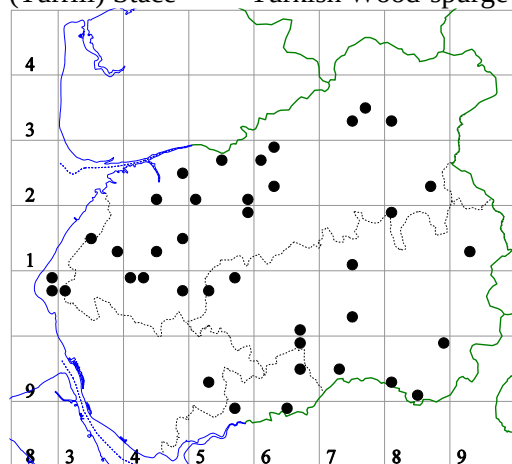
Euphorbia amygdaloides L. ssp. *amygdaloides* Wood Spurge

Status & distribution: Naturalised in South Lancashire; established at Bamford Wood (SD8512, DP & J Earl, P & A Bowdler, 2009).

Habitat: Wooded roadside bank where assumed to have been planted.

Comments: It is not known at this stage if the plants recorded from Martin Mere (SD41H, comm. PJW, c.1990) and Rochdale (SD81W, J Lowell, 2001) are conspecific with the native Wood Spurge or are the widely cultivated *E. amygdaloides* ssp. *robbiae*.

Euphorbia amygdaloides L. ssp. *robbiae* (Turrill) Stace Turkish Wood-spurge



Padiham DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; now widely established.

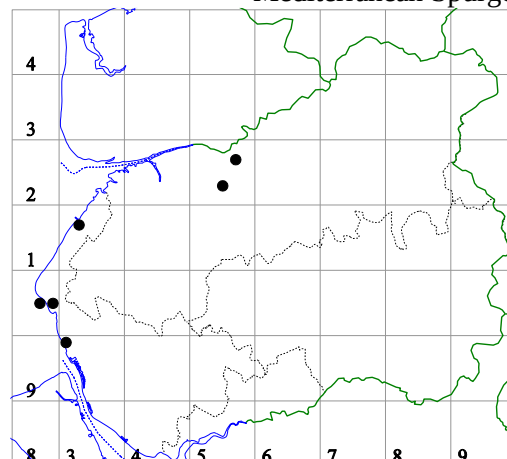
Earliest record traced: Walkden (SD7402, DP Earl, 2001).

Habitat: Semi-naturalised along railway banks, shaded banks, roadsides, etc. nearby to habitation.

Comments: Native to Turkey. Plants are considered to originate from fragments that have survived from disposed garden refuse. In some cases, plants are becoming semi-established as sucker growth from neighbouring gardens. Also known as Mrs Robb's Hat-plant

Euphorbia characias L.

Mediterranean Spurge



Leyland DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Crosby Baths (SJ39E, 2004); Altcar Rifle Range (SD2804, 2009); Ravenmeols dunes (SD2706, 2010) PH Smith; railway bank, Hightown (SD2904, DP & J Earl, 2009); regenerating at School Lane, Leyland (SD5422, 2017); edge of car park, Bamber Bridge (SD5626, 2017); pavement weed by Lord Street Gardens, Southport (SD3317, 2019) DP & J Earl.

Habitat: Sandy ground near the sea, shrub plantings and increasingly as a pavement weed.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean. The plants need to be examined in flower

to determine which subspecies is or are naturalised.

Euphorbia polychroma A. Kern.

Cushion Spurge

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; by Great George Street, Liverpool (SJ3589, DP & J Earl, 2012).

Habitat: Ruderal grassland.

Comments: Native to Turkey, Central and Eastern Europe.

[***Euphorbia villosa*** Waldst. & Kit. ex Willd.

Hairy Spurge

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Queen's Park, Bolton (SD70E, T Greenlees, 1936, BON).

Comments: Native to mainland Europe. This record requires validation.]