

Title **NEW PLANT INVASION ON NORTH ISLAND BEACHES**



***Euphorbia paralias* - Sea Spurge**

DESCRIPTION

Sea spurge grows to approximately 70 centimetres in height, it has multiple stems covered in small, closely packed leaves. The plant has an overall blue/green colour, and the small flowers (which appear anytime from September to May) are green, inconspicuous and are situated at the end of the stems.



HABITAT

Sea spurge invades sandy beaches and dune plant communities. Single plants can quickly form large dense colonies which prevent regeneration of native species and change the structure of the beach



INVASIVENESS

Able to regrow if buried by sand as the above ground stems die after flowering to be replaced by new stems. A single plant is capable of producing more than 2 000 seeds per season. These seeds can survive for a number of years on ocean currents that spread them from beach to beach

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION

South-eastern Australia. North and west coasts of Tasmania. Found near the mouth of the Waihi Stream on the coast north of Aotea Heads in April 2012 first sighting in New Zealand.

What can you do? If you see this plant growing on any dune systems record where you are, if possible take a photo and let your local DoC office know.