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*EUPHORBIA LATHYRIS* (EUPHORBIACEAE) NEW FOR TEXAS — *Euphorbia lathyris* L., a European herbaceous euphorb not previously reported from Texas has been found naturalized on the Edwards Plateau of central Texas. The plant is known only from a single site in western Gillespie County.

*Euphorbia lathyris*, caper or myrtle spurge, a European euphorb has been found growing on the banks of the Threadgill Creek in western Gillespie County, Texas. This spurge is native to the Mediterranean region of southern Europe and according to Marshall C. Johnston (pers. comm.) has not been previously reported from Texas. It is not listed in the more recent Texas checklists by Johnston (1988, 1990) and Hatch et al. (1990).

Caper spurge is widely cultivated in Europe and is occasionally cultivated in the United States. It is known to have escaped cultivation in the Atlantic Northeast and in California. It is also known as "mole plant" because of its believed properties that repel moles from lawns. The seeds have cathartic properties.

*Euphorbia lathyris* is distinct from other Texas euphorbs in its tall, somewhat conspicuous habit. It gets up to a meter tall with narrow leaves to 14 cm long arranged in four vertical rows along the stem. The inflorescence is umbellately branched with the floral bracts lanceolate to ovate. Its crescent-shaped glands are prolonged into short horns. The subglobose capsules are 1.0 – 1.2 cm wide.

The author previously observed non-flowering plants (vegetative) in Gillespie County, but were later eaten by animals and never positively identified. The plants are found on a cattle ranch inhabited by angora goats and white-tail deer, and it is likely that few of the plants ever reach maturity. The collection site is within a deer-proof fence enclosure established for the purposes of native plant research and affords protection from these animals. Plants were first identified in May, 1990 when in full flower. Marshall Johnston visited the site with the author at that time and collected a single specimen from a colony of six plants along the creek bank. In August the author collected a fruiting specimen. The fruiting specimen was taken to SMU where the author and Wm. F. Mahler determined it to be *E. lathyris* matching European collections in the herbarium.

Eight young seedlings had appeared by November in the vicinity and remained 20 – 25 cm tall through spring and summer of 1991; apparently this being the first year's growth of the biennial.

At present there is no information as to the source of *E. lathyris* at this site. There is no report of it ever being cultivated in Gillespie County or anywhere else in Texas. It is possible that seeds were brought by the Germans who settled this area in 1846 and that the plants have escaped detection until now. Collection data are:

Collections examined: TEXAS. Gillespie Co.: Threadgill Creek, 11 km N of Harper, 11 km S of Doss on McGinley Ranch, 13 May 1990, *O'Kennon and M. C. Johnston* 6697 (TEX); Threadgill Creek, 11 km N of Harper on McGinley Ranch, 3 Aug 1990, *O'Kennon* 7991 (BRIT/SMU).

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*ULMUS PARVIFOLIA* (ULMACEAE) NATURALIZED IN KENTUCKY — The exotic elm commonly naturalized in Kentucky and elsewhere in the United States is the spring-flowering Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila* L.), often misnamed the Chinese elm. For several years we have noted many spontaneous individuals of another Asiatic species of *Ulmus*, the fall-flowering "true" Chinese elm or lacebark elm (*U. parvifolia* Jacq.) in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Individuals of various sizes — seedlings through mature trees up to 35 cm DBH — can be found in empty lots, in fencerows, and along railroads. They are commonly associated with tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle), northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa* Warder), Osage-orange (*Maclura pomifera* (Raf.) Schneider), and Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii* Maxim.). The voucher cited below — from a small tree 10 cm DBH and in abundant fruit — was growing between the rails of an abandoned railroad track. There is no doubt that *U. parvifolia* is well naturalized in Louisville.



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