

## *Euphorbia milii*

### Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae  
Clade : Angiosperms  
Order : Malpighiales  
Family : Euphorbiaceae  
Genus : *Euphorbia*  
Species : *E. milii*



*Euphorbia milii*

### Description

It is a succulent subshrub or shrub growing to 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in) tall, with densely spiny stems. The straight, slender spines, up to 3 cm (1.2 in) long, help it scramble over other plants. The leaves are found mainly on new growth, and are up to 3.5 cm (1.4 in) long and 1.5 cm (0.59 in) broad. The flowers are small, subtended by a pair of conspicuous petal-like bracts, variably red, pink or white, up to 12 mm (0.47 in) broad. The sap is moderately poisonous, and causes irritation on contact with skin or eyes. If ingested, it causes severe stomach pain, irritation of the throat and mouth, and vomiting. The poisonous ingredients have been identified as phorbol esters. Wat Phrik in Thailand claims to be the home of the world's tallest Christ thorn plant. *Euphorbia milii* can be propagated from cuttings.

### Medicinal uses

**Euphorbia milii** widely used in folk **medicine** for the treatment of warts (South Brazil), cancer and hepatitis (china).

It has been reported that **Euphorbia milii** possesses antifungal and antinociceptive property, acts as natural molluscicide, can curb the spread of schistosomiasis.

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