

## 2014 November *Guess that Plant*



*Polygonella articulata* (L.) Meissn.; Coastal or Eastern Jointweed

The November *Guess that Plant* was the annual Coastal Jointweed. Few New Jersey plants have the wispy habit of jointweed. Often it appears to be just a skeleton from a previous season. When closely examined the plant has pink to maroon colored stems with tiny scale like leaves. Flowers are perfect yet tiny. The size ranges between 1 to 2mm long, composed of delicate sepals with no corolla. The sepal color is white with red to pink cast and a red tipped keel. The flowers appear and set fruit in late summer and early autumn. *Polygonella* occupies the driest of dry, acidic sands often seen on interior Pine Barrens uplands and dunes. The photo above captures the typical soil requirement: coarse sand. Coastal Plain landscape features such as dunes, dry portions of beaches and sandy road shoulders often support this plant. Hough (1983) identifies specimens from every county south of the Raritan River.

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