

Botanic name : *Polygonum alatum* Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don -- Prodr. Fl. Nepal. 72. 1825 [26 Jan-1 Feb 1825] ; pro syn. (IK)

Common name : Jakyrphuh (Meghalaya, India)

Family : Polygonaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Tropical Africa, Madagascar and Tropical Asia, probably introduced into South Africa.

Description: An erect or procumbent annual; stem slender, glabrous, internodes long; leaves ovate or deltoid-ovate, entire at margin, acute at apex, minutely verrucose; petiole long, broadly winged, wing often cordate at the base; ochreae tubular, oblique, membranous, entire; flowers in capitate few-flowered cymes subtended by a reduced leaf at the apex of slender branches, which are glandular or slightly hairy at their tips; perianth 1 1/2 lin. long; lobes about as long as the tube, oblong, obtuse; stamens 6–8, much shorter than the perianth; filaments narrowly lanceolate; anthers dark brown, cells discrete; ovary compressed; styles 2, nearly as long as the ovary, united nearly half-way; nut lenticular, chestnut-brown, shining, very minutely verrucose.

Phytochemicals: sitosterone, viscozulenic acid, acetophenone (aerial parts), flavanones (leaves), sitosterone, viscozulenic acid and acetophenone

Medicinal/Economic uses : Astringent, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antinociceptive, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, antiulcer, wound healing, carminative, parasiticide, and has cooling effect. Traditionally in Meghalaya, India, leaf parts are fomented on the body of persons suffering from leprosy and also in paralytic patients. The hot mixture is effective in treating various kinds of skin diseases. The rhizome paste is applied locally to treat boils. Acetophenone is used extensively as a food additive to create various food fragrances, and is also known to possess hypnotic and anticonvulsant property. A paste of the root is used externally in the treatment of scabies while seeds are used to relieve the griping pains of colic.