

**Botanic name** : *Circaea alpina* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 9. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

**Common name** : Small Enchanter's-Nightshade

**Family** : Onagraceae

**Habitat** : Terrestrial

**Distribution** : Native to the whole of Europe, Turkey, the Caucasus, Siberia, Sakhalin islands, the Kamtschatka Peninsula, China, Japan, UK, USA, Indian Himalaya, Alaska, Canada. The herb is under threat due to habitat fragmentation, kans degradation and unsustainable exploitation

**Description** : Perennial herb with runners 10-30 cm tall; stem unbranched, fragile; leaves simple, opposite, acute at apex, cordate at base, toothed at margin, no stipules; flowers white, regular, bracteate, radially symmetrical, arranged In a lax raceme, has hypanthium; both sepals and petals 2 each in number, the petals are thin and delicate, obovate, retuse at apex, and pigmented ; stamens 2, anthers basifixed to filaments, ovary inferior, carpels 2 fused; fruit dry indehiscent, hairy achene, 1.6-2.6 mm

**Phytochemicals**: Phenolic acids, gallic acid, caffeic acid pentoside, oenotherin B, vicenin-1, apigenin, ellagitannins, flavonoids

**Medicinal/Economic uses** : Anti-inflammatory (European folk medicine), Internal as tea, external as cold maceration in ethanol, used to cure rheumatism, gout, infections, and fever (Austria), antioxidant having free radical scavenging activity.