

**Botanic name :** *Aconogonum molle* (D. Don) H. Hara (unresolved)

**Ref-** The Plant List/ipni.org (possible syn-*Polygonum molle*)

**Common name :** Sikkim knotweed

**Family :** Polygonaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native to Indian Himalayas, eastward distribution to China. Endangered medicinal plants due to overexploitation, habitat loss and possible climate change

**Description :** A perennial, tall, erect, soft-hairy undershrub; stems pubescent; leaves elliptic-lanceolate, velvety above, hairy below, stipulate; stipule ochreate, ovate, tubular up to 5 cm long, membranous; flowers numerous, beautiful creamy white, arranged in a large thyrsoid, velvety panicle, perianth (tepals) 5, oblong-lanceolate; stamens 8 with long thread like filaments; styles 3 with head-like stigmas, ovary trigonous with basal placentation; fruits baccate (nuts included within reddish black fleshy tepals, exerted up to ½ or 1/3 rd of its length).

**Phytochemicals:** phenolic compounds (quercetin , quercetin 3-O-b-D-galactopyranoside quercetin 3-O-(600 -O-caf-feoyl)-b-D-galactopyranoside, quercetin 3-O-b-D-glucopyranoside, rutin, quercetin 3-O-(600-O-galloyl)-b-D-galactopyranoside, quercetin 3-O-a-L-arabinopyranoside, quercetin 3-O-a-L-arabinofuranoside, protocatechulic acid, gallic acid, chlorogenic acid)

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Astringent, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant. Used against gastro-intestinal disorders, skin diseases. In Sikkim (India), locals used the plant ('thotne') as folk medicine: Young Shoots. The plants is used as an astringent and eaten relished in the hills as vegetable and pickle. It has similar flavour as their of the Himalayas rubarb Young shoots are taken as vegetables-raw or cooked.