

**Botanic name :** *Muehlenbeckia platyclada* (F.Muell.) Meisn. -- Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 23: 313. 1865 (as "platyclados") (IK)

**Common name :** Tapeworm plant, Ribbon bush

**Family :** Polygonaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native to Solomon island and Papua New Guinea. Introduced in India but its habitat is threatened in NE India, becoming rare in many parts of Himalaya

**Description :** Perennial erect, 1m tall shrubby plant with broad, flat, thin, articulate, delicately striate, ribbon-like phylloclades-short flattened photosynthetic shoots that functions like leaves; leaves small, green, membranous, entire, often lobed at base, 1.5-6.5 cm long. Ochreae 1-2 mm long, ovate, obtuse; flowers sessile, clustered, borne directly from the shoot-joint; bracteate, bracts ovate, c. 1 mm long. Perianth segments 5, greenish, oblong, 1-1.5 mm long. Stamens 8. Ovary ovoid, 3-angular c. 1 mm long; styles 3; fruits red, nuts enclosed in the fleshy deep red or purplish perianth

**Phytochemicals:** Flavonol Glycosides, alkaloids

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Antinociceptive and anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antifungal, cytotoxic, antinematodal. Used as a remedy for poisonous intake by animals. Has ornamental flattened stems with architectural value