

**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

**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.