

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; becomes invasive in East Asia, parts of USA, Indian Himalayas

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, vicianin-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.