

**Botanic name :** *Polygonum orientale* L. --- Sp. Pl. 1: 362. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

**Common name :** Prince's Feather

**Family :** Polygonaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Indian Himalayas to western and southern China, SE Asia

**Description :** An erect, 1-2 m tall, decumbent or prostrate simple-branched, annual, herb; stems glabrous, lineolate-canaliculate; leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, acuminate at apex, glabrous except margin, midrib and veins ciliate, sessile to subsessile, stipulate; stipules Ochreate flowers white, pedicel, arranged in a branched raceme with 1-6 spikes/ raceme, pedunculate; tepals 5, oblanceolate-obovate, obtuse, biseriate, unequal; stamens 5-8, filaments long, equal; stamens 7, exerted, ovary broadly ovate-orbicular, placentation basal, trigonous, styles three, long, filiform and free till half of the length with capitate stigmas; fruits-nuts trigonous, included in persistent perianth, black, shiny, ovoid.

**Phytochemicals:** sitosterone, viscozuleninic acid, acetophenone (aerial parts), flavanones (leaves), sitosterone, viscozuleninic acid and acetophenone

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Astringent, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antinociceptive, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, antiulcer, wound healing, carminative, parasiticide, and has cooling effect. Acetophenone is used extensively as a food additive to create various food fragrances, and is also known to possess hypnotic and anticonvulsant property. A paste of the root is used externally in the treatment of scabies while seeds are used to relieve the griping pains of colic. Young leaves and shoots cooked as vegetable.