

Botanic name : *Polygonum chinense* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 363. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

[synonym *Persicaria chinensis* (L.) H. Gross]

Common name : Creeping smartweed, Chinese knotweed

Family : Polygonaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial-trailing

Distribution : Native to Indo-China; naturally distributed in Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam

Description : Perennial herb/climber with stout rhizomes; stems erect, 70-100 cm tall, branched, striate, ligenous at base; petiole auriculate at base; leaves oblong-ovate, truncate at base, shortly acuminate at apex, alternate in arrangement, leaf uppersurface with purple inverted 'v'-shaped spot, ochreate; Perianth white or pinkish, 5-parted; tepals ovate, accrescent in fruit, becoming blue-black, fleshy; Stamens 8, included. Styles 3, connate to below middle; placentation basal, flowers small, white, pinkish, arranged in capitate, several capitula aggregated and panicle-like; peduncle densely glandular hairy; bracts broadly ovate; fruits berries/achene; included in persistent perianth

Phytochemicals: Flavonoids, terpenoids, tannins, saponins and glycosides; hecogenin, aurantiamide, β -sitosterol, stigmastane-3,6-ione, and 25-r-spirost-4-ene-3,12-dione, dotriaeontanol, methyl 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoate, daucosterol, quercitrin, 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid, quercetin, hyperoside and 3-O-Methy-lellagic acid 4'-O-rhamnopyranoside

Medicinal/Economic uses : Diuretic (Nepal, Sikkim of India), antibacterial, astringent, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, gastroprotective, cytotoxic, anthelmintic (India, China, Philippines, SE Asia). used in herbal remedies, such as for the treatment of dysentery, enteritis, sore throat, gastroenteritis, bloody stool, corneal opacity, indigestion, hepatitis, tonsillitis, eczema, traumatic injuries, pharyngitis, laryngopharyngitis. As external wash for eczema, dermatitis, pruritus, sprains, bruises, poisonous snake bites, worms and scorpion bites. Folkloric uses: poultice of dried material for furuncle and abscesses. Used to treat ulcers, eczema, stomach aches and various inflammatory diseases (Chinese medicine). Fruits are edible with sour taste.