

Persicaria lapathifolia

[Synonyms : *Persicaria incarnata*, *Persicaria lapathifolia* subsp. *klokvi*, *Persicaria tomentosa*, *Polygonum ferrugineum* var. *patagonicum*, *Polygonum incanum*, *Polygonum incarnatum*, *Polygonum lanigerum*, *Polygonum lapathifolium*, *Polygonum lapathifolium* var. *incanum*, *Polygonum lapathifolium* var. *lapathifolium*, *Polygonum lapathifolium* var. *nodosum*, *Polygonum lapathifolium* var. *ovatum*, *Polygonum lapathifolium* subsp. *pallidum*, *Polygonum lapathifolium* var. *prostratum*, *Polygonum lapathifolium* var. *salicifolium*, *Polygonum linicola*, *Polygonum nodosum*, *Polygonum oneilii*, *Polygonum pallidum*, *Polygonum paniculatum*, *Polygonum pensylvanicum* subsp. *oneilii*, *Polygonum persicaria*, *Polygonum persicaria* var. *vernicosum*, *Polygonum scabrum*, *Polygonum spectabile* var. *patagonica*, *Polygonum tomentosum*, *Polygonum utriculatum*]

PALE PERSICARIA is an annual. Native to the temperate northern hemisphere it has tiny, dull pink or greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as *Ampferknöterich* (German), *Beklierde duizendknoop* (Dutch), Common knotweed, *Costog y Domen* (Welsh), Curltop ladythumb, Curlytop knotweed, Curlytop smartweed, *Da ma liao* (Chinese), Dockleaf smartweed, Dock-leaved smartweed, *Erba pepe* (Italian), *Filzkn* (German), *Goretz uzlovaty* (Russian), Green smartweed, Heart's-ease, *Kahar kirburohi* (Estonian), *Knopige duizendknoop* (Dutch), Knotweed, *Knudet pileurt* (Danish), *Mal-casada* (Portuguese), Nodding smartweed, *Oo inu tade* (Japanese), Pale smartweed, Peachwort, *Persicaire* (French), *Persicaria mayor* (Spanish), *Pilört* (Swedish), *Poligono nodoso* (Italian), *Rdesno blešník* (Czech), *Rdest szczawiolistny* (Polish), *Renouée à feuilles de patience* (French), *Shui la liao* (Chinese), *Shui liao* (Chinese), Smartweed, Spotted persicaria, *Suan mo ye liao* (Chinese), *Ukontatar* (Finnish), *Vrbice bílá* (Czech), Willow smartweed, Willow weed, and *Witte smerte* (Dutch).

The plant has been declared an invasive weed in large parts of North America.

Lapathifolia is derived from an old Latin name *lapathi* (dock, sorrel) and *-folia* (leaved) components meaning 'with leaves like dock or sorrel (*Rumex*)'.

Some of the North American Navajo Indian tribe used an infusion of the plant during certain ceremonial rituals.

Several North American Indian tribes chose the plant for various medicinal purposes. The Zuni took a root decoction as a purgative or to cause vomiting, the Potawatomi recommended a plant infusion for easing fever, and some of the Keresan tribe believed a plant infusion was useful as a remedy for stomach upsets.

Naturalists have noted that the seeds are eaten by songbirds and waterfowl.