

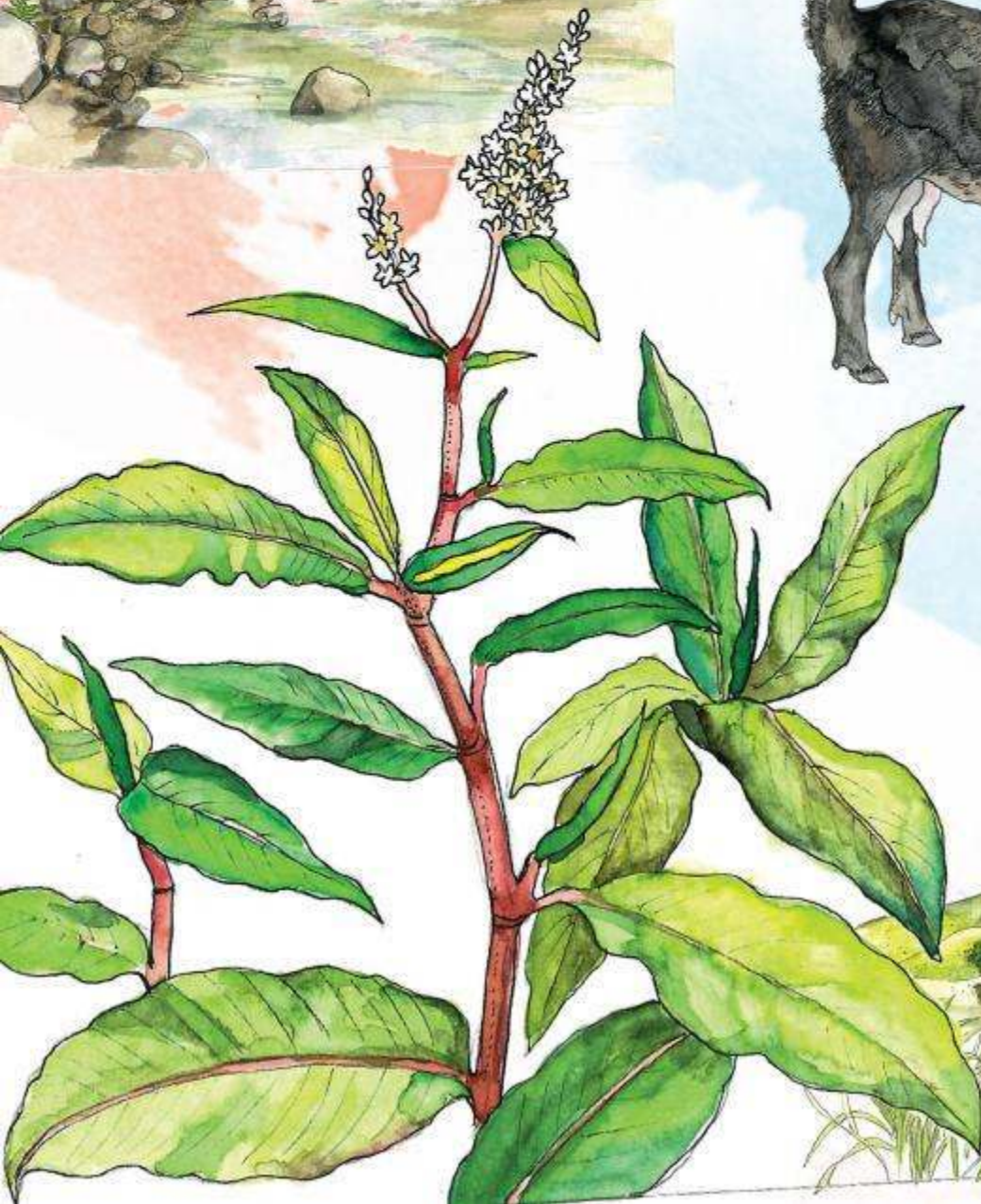
SPECIES: *POLYGONUM POLYSTACHYUM*

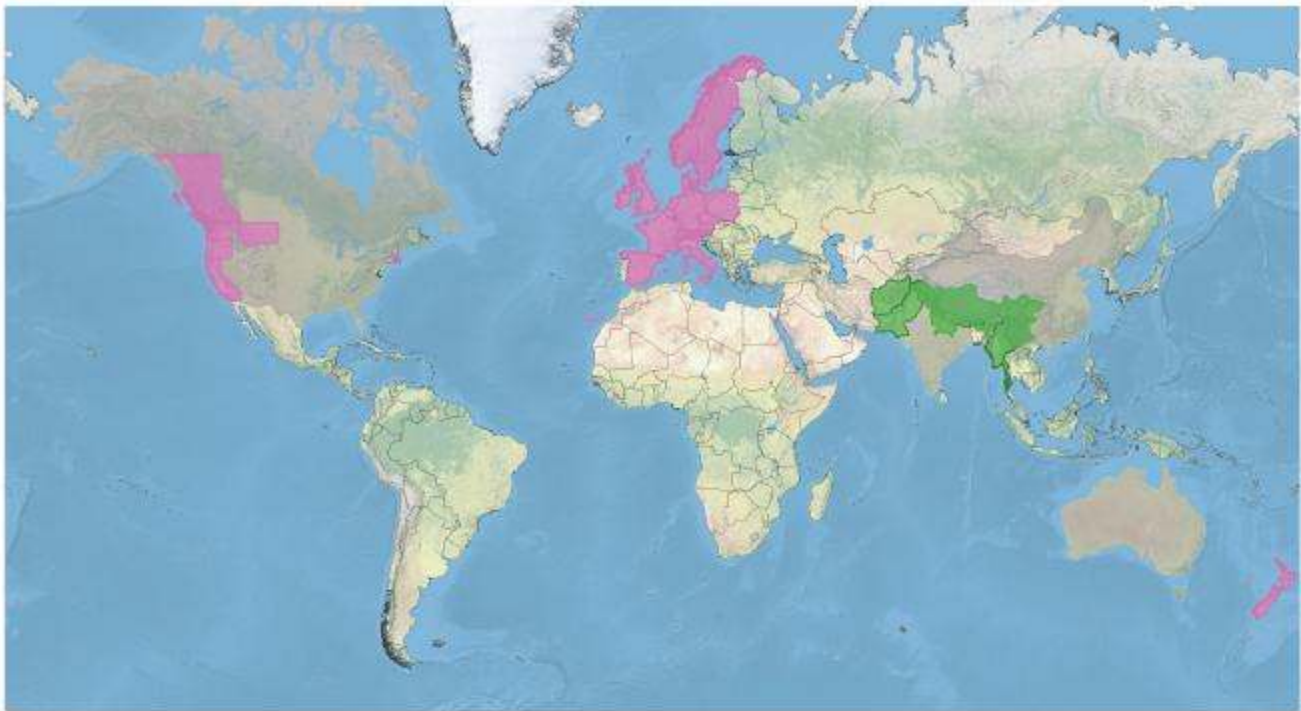
COMMON NAME: HIMALAYANS KNOTWEED

FAMILY: POLYGONACEAE

Plant Description

It is a perennial herb that can grow to a height of 30-250 cm. It occurs at high altitudes (it is found at elevations over 3500 masl in the Himalayas). The plant has a flexible erect stem that is reddish brown in colour. The leaves are narrowly to elliptically ovate with pointy ends. It forms creamy white to pinkish coloured flowers arranged in branched clusters (panicles) 4-11 cm long. The plant can reproduce vegetatively from rhizomes/rhizome fragments in addition to reproducing from seed.





CABI, 2022. *Persicaria wallichii*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/120210#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

■ Introduced
■ Native
■ Origin not recorded

Note: Although not depicted on this map, the plant is considered invasive outside its native range in India

***Polygonum polystachyum* (also known as *Persicaria wallichii*; *Koenigia polystachya*)**

POLYGONACEAE

Origin: Himalayas

Introduction: It is a native coloniser in temperate regions of Assam, and the Eastern and Western Himalayas. It is considered an invasive plant in other parts of India (e.g., the Western Ghats) and in parts of the world where it has been introduced as an ornamental plant.

Impacts: The plant aggressively colonises habitats and reduces the diversity of native plants. Even in its native range the plant can be an aggressive coloniser (e.g., it has been reported to reduce the diversity of medicinal aromatic plants of the Himalayas).

Management: The plant regenerates rapidly after it is cut. In USA, frequent manual cutting using machines, once in 3 weeks, was continued for 2-3 years to effectively control patches. Goats will actively graze on Himalayan knotweed and thus controlled grazing can be an option too for controlling the spread of plant.