PLANT FACT SHEET

Persicaria pubescens (Blume) H. Hara

GENUS *Persicaria* **FAMILY** Polygonaceae

COMMON NAMES Water smartweed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Spice

The leaves are used as a seasoning.
It is used as a leafy vegetable.
The young shoots are used as a spice.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It grows 80-100 cm high. The small branches are hairy. The nodes are enlarged. The leaves are sword shaped and 3-8 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The lower leaves fall off at flowering. The leaves are green with a dark patch below the middle. The flowers are red. There are 3-10 in a loose group at the ends of branches. The flowering groups are 1-10 cm long. The fruit is a dry 3 sided seed 2 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows along ditches and near water. In China it grows from sea level to 2,700 m above sea level. In Pakistan it grows up to 1,500 m altitude. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 50 Polygonum species.

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