PLANT FACT SHEET

Persicaria decipiens (R. Br.) K. L. Wilson

GENUS *Persicaria* **FAMILY** Polygonaceae

COMMON NAMES Slender Knotweed, Snake root

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are cooked as a vegetable. They are slimy, coarse and not very popular.

DESCRIPTION

A small herb. It can keep growing from year to year or re-grow from seed each year. It can grow in water or on land. It grows 20-50 cm high and spreads 30-100 cm wide. The stems are spreading and creeping. They form roots at the lower nodes. The sheaths are 2 cm long and brown. The leaves are 5-12 cm long by 0.5-1.5 cm wide. They are sword shaped. They are green but can have reddish tinges. There is usually a purple blotch near the middle. The flower spikes are 6 cm long by 0.4 cm wide. The flowers are 3.5 cm long and pink or white. The fruit is a small nut. It is brown.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in damp situations. It grows in marshy places and on the edge of streams. In West Africa it grows in the savannah in swampy sites. It is often in high rainfall sites. In Africa it grows from sea level to 2,400 m above sea level. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed, cuttings or division of the rooted stems.

NOTES

There are about 75 Persicaria species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/6e476851-731f-46c4-9539-2d7b2d6d98ba