PLANT FACT SHEET

Persicaria attenuata (R. Br.) Sojak

GENUS *Persicaria* **FAMILY** Polygonaceae

COMMON NAMES Watersmart weed, Hairy knotweed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are used in salads. They are also cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A herb which keeps growing from year to year. It can grow in water or dry land. The stems are spreading. They can have long hairs. The sheaths are reddish-brown and 3 cm long. The leaves are 8-20 cm long by 1.5-5 cm wide. They are narrowly oval. The leaves are hairy. The flower spikes are 11 cm long by 1 cm wide. The flowers are about 0.4 cm long and white. The fruit are small nuts. They are dark brown to black.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on the edges of swamps and waterways. It grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 75-150 Persicaria species. There are about 20 in tropical America.

REFERENCES

Calvert, G. & Liessman, L., 2014, Wetland Plants of the Townsville - Burdekin Flood Plain. LBLCA Ayr, Queensland, p 83

Cowie, I, 2006, A Survey of Flora and vegetation of the proposed Jaco-Tutuala-Lore National Park. Timor-Lests (East Timor) www.territorystories.nt/gov.au p 52

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1997, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 7. Lothian. p 204

Grubben, G. J. H. and Denton, O. A. (eds), 2004, Plant Resources of Tropical Africa 2. Vegetables. PROTA, Wageningen, Netherlands. p 412

Henty, E.E., & Pritchard, G.S., 1973, Weeds of New Guinea and their control. Botany Bulletin No 7, Division of Botany, Lae, PNG. p 138

Henty, E.E., in Womersley, J.S., (ed), 1978, Handbooks of the Flora of Papua New Guinea. Melbourne University Press,Victoria. Vol 1, p 232

Henty, E.E., 1980, Harmful Plants in Papua New Guinea. Botany Bulletin No 12. Division Botany, Lae, Papua New Guinea. p 116, 117

Jackes, B. R., 2010, Plants of Magnetic Island. 3rd Edition. James Cook University, Australia. p 110

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 95

Martin, F.W. & Ruberte, R.M., 1979, Edible Leaves of the Tropics. Antillian College Press, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. p 213

Leach, G.J., & Osborne, P.L., 1985, Freshwater Plants of Papua New Guinea. UPNG Press, p 213

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Calatogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 460

Pham-Hoang Ho, 1999, An Illustrated Flora of Vietnam. Nha Xuat Ban Tre. p 751

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Romanowski, N., 2007, Edible Water Gardens. Hyland House. p 77

Stephens, K.M., & Dowling, R.M., 2002, Wetland Plants of Queensland. A field guide. CSIRO p 74

Swaziland's Flora Database http://www.sntc.org.sz/flora (As var. africana)

Terra, G.J.A., 1973, Tropical Vegetables. Communication 54e Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, p 68

Wheeler, J.R.(ed.), 1992, Flora of the Kimberley Region. CALM, Western Australian Herbarium, p 146

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7bab11d0-1320-4dba-be5a-b83f7070133f