PLANT FACT SHEET

Persicaria serrulata Brouss. ex Willd.

GENUS *Persicaria* **FAMILY** Polygonaceae

COMMON NAMES Slender Knotweed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds

The young leaves are chopped, boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. The stems are slender. It is erect and grows 60-90 cm high. When lying along the ground, stems form roots at the nodes. The leaves are alternate and almost without stalks. The leaf blades are long and narrow. They are 11 cm long. They are dark green. At the base they clasp the stems. This forms a sheath with hairs along the fringe. The flowers are small, pink and in spikes. These are 2-9 cm long and have a zigzag shape. The fruit is a 3 sided nutlet. It is smooth and shiny.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in Mediterranean countries. It grows in moist places. It can grow as a flat plant on the mud at the edge of the water. In Tanzania it grows in swamps from sea level to 2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are collected in the dry season.

NOTES

There are about 50 Polygonum species.

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