

Reynoutria japonica
Polygonum cuspidatum
Fallopia japonica
 Japanese knotweed

Introduction

The genus *Reynoutria* contains 3 species occurring in eastern Asia. In China, the only reported species occurs in southern Gansu and southern Shaanxi, eastern, southern, southwestern, and central China. The species under this account are also considered as the constituents of the genus *Polygonum* L., or genus *Fallopia* Adanson.

Species of *Reynoutria* in China
Reynoutria japonica Houtt.

Taxonomy

Order: Polygoales

Family: Polygonaceae

Subfamily: Polygonideae

Tribe: Polygoneae

Genus: *Reynoutria* Houtt.

Species: *Reynoutria japonica* Houtt.*

*also commonly known as *Polygonum cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc., and *Fallopia japonica* (Houttuyn) Ronse Decraene

Description

Reynoutria japonica is a stout perennial with long-lived, sturdy creeping rhizomes. The hollow, erect stems, reaching, 1-2 m in height, are glabrous, and have conspicuous vertical furrows, swollen nodes and scattered red or purplish red spots. The nearly leathery



leaves are glabrous, broadly ovate or ovoid elliptic, 5-12 cm long and 4-9 cm wide, with acuminate apex, broadly cuneate, truncate or suborbicular base and entire margins. The brownish ochrea, often caducous, is membranous, glabrous, asymmetrical, 3-5 mm in length, truncate apically, and vertically veined. The unisexual flowers are borne on axillary panicles 3-8 cm long. Bracts are funnel-shaped, about 1.5-2 mm long, and acuminate at the apex, each containing 2 to 4 flowers. The stipule is a membranous sheath, 2-4 mm long. The greenish-white flowers appear in August through September. The shiny blackish brown achenes, contained in a persistent perianth are about 4-5 mm long, are produced in September through October^[96]

Habitat

R. japonica occurs in thickets on mountain slopes, valleys, roadsides, and wetlands in field margins, at elevations of 100-2000 meters^[96, 100].

Distribution

R. japonica is occurs in Anhui, Fujian, northern Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, and Zhejiang provinces. It is cultivated in Hebei, Heilongjiang,



Liaoning, Jilin, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang provinces^[17, 22, 52, 100, 104].

Economic Importance

The rhizomes of *Reynoutria japonica* are medicinally useful^[96].

Natural Enemies of *Reynoutria*

Two fungi have been found on *R. japonica*. Five arthropods are reported to be associated with *R. japonica*.

Fungi

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref
Basidiomycota	Pucciniaceae	<i>Puccinia polygoni-amphibii</i> Pers.*	o	[26]
		<i>Puccinia polygoni-amphibii</i> Persoon var. <i>polugoni-sieboldii</i> Hiratsuka f. & S. Kaneko	p	[229]
Anamorphic Uredinales		<i>Aecidium polygoni-cuspidati</i> Dietel	o	[26]

*Probable synonym of *Puccinia polygoni-amphibii* Persoon var. *polugoni-sieboldii* Hiratsuka f. & S. Kaneko

Arthropods

Order	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Lepidoptera	Geometridae	<i>Ectropis excellens</i> Butler	p	[189]
	Lycaenidae	<i>Celastrina argiola</i> (L.)	p	[219]
		<i>Plebejus argus</i> (L.)	p	[219]
	Noctuidae	<i>Polia illoba</i> (Butler)	p	[228]
		<i>Xylena formosa</i> (Butler)	p	[166]