Himalayan Knotweed, *Persicaria wallichii*

**Overview**

**Short description of *Persicaria wallichii*, Himalayan Knotweed**
A robust rhizomatous perennial to 1.8m, with pinkish or white flowers. The leaves are lanceolate, up to 20cm long, and with sheaths surrounding the stem at the base of their stalks as in other knotweeds.

**Description of *Persicaria wallichii*, Himalayan Knotweed status in GB**
Himalayan knotweed is a garden escape naturalised on roadsides, especially in north and west GB and Northern Ireland.

**Habitat summary: *Persicaria wallichii*, Himalayan Knotweed**
Damp grassland and streamsides.

**Overview table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment:</th>
<th>Terrestrial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Species status:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native range:</td>
<td>Himalayas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional type:</td>
<td>Land plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status in England:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status in Scotland:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status in Wales:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location of first record:</td>
<td>v.c.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of first record:</td>
<td>1917</td>
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</tbody>
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**Invasion history: *Persicaria wallichii*, Himalayan Knotweed**

**Origin**
Native to the Himalayas.

**First Record**
In cultivation in GB by 1900. First recorded in the wild 1917 in North Devon.

**Pathway and Method**
Introduced as an ornamental garden plant. Very persistent in abandoned gardens and on roadsides, etc. where garden waste has been dumped. The plant is still available from some suppliers.

**Species Status**
Locally naturalised, especially in north and west GB. Although it was recorded in 374 10km squares between 1987 and 1999 as compared with 205 from 1970 to 1986, it is not clear whether its range is expanding, because of differences in recording practice. In all date classes it has been recorded in 668 10km squares up to 2010.

**Ecology & Habitat: *Persicaria wallichii*, Himalayan**
**Knotweed**

**Dispersal Mechanisms**
Plant fragments moved by cutting machinery or flowing water; deliberate dumping of garden waste.

**Reproduction**
Himalayan Knotweed has bisexual insect-pollinated flowers, but apparently rarely sets seed in GB. Reproduction is almost entirely vegetative, from fragments of rhizome, or pieces of aerial stem containing nodes.

**Known Predators/Herbivores**
None known.

**Resistant Stages**
Overwinters as rhizomes after the aerial stems have died back.

**Habitat Occupied in GB**
Rough grassland, including railway banks, roadside verges and streamsides.

**Distribution: Persicaria wallichii, Himalayan Knotweed**
Scattered records throughout lowland GB, but with most records concentrated in the southwest and west Wales.

**Impacts: Persicaria wallichii, Himalayan Knotweed**

**Environmental Impact**
Forms very dense spreading stands that exclude other vegetation.

**Health and Social Impact**
None known.

**Economic Impact**
Slight at present, but it could become costly to control if there is significant spread from its established sites.

**References & Links: Persicaria wallichii, Himalayan Knotweed**

**Identification**

**Biology, ecology, spread, vectors**


**Management and impact**

**General**
Ecological Flora of the British Isles


https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/120210

https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1413