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: Polygonales 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 throught September. The shiny blackish brown achenes, contained in a persistent perianth are about 4-5 mm long, are produced in September through October [96]

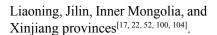
Habitat

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,





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	Puccinia polygoni-amphibii Pers.*	o	[26]
		Puccinia polygoni-amphibii Persoon var. polugoni- sieboldii Hiratsuka f. & S. Kaneko	p	[229]
Anamorphic Uredinales		Aecidium polygoni-cuspidati Dietel	0	[26]

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

Arthropods

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