

# Himalayan knotweed

*Koenigia polystachya*

Species of Union concern



©Frank Vincentz (1)



Invasive species native to the Himalayas. **Widespread** in the wild in Belgium

Found along **waterways, roadsides and railroads**, as well as in **vacant lots**



**Terrestrial plant** that grows to a height of 40 to 120 cm

Oblong to lanceolate leaves with marked tip, glabrous on the upper face and hairy on the lower face



©Rens Hendrickx (2)

**Rhizomatous plant forming dense colonies**



©Gilles San Martin (3)

If you spot that species, record your observation on

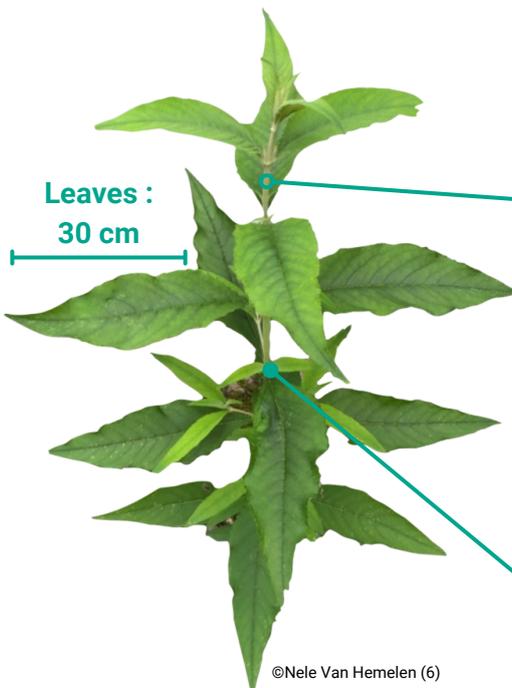
**Observations.be** **iNaturalist**

You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species

Creamy-white or pinkish flowers in leafy panicles, with blue stamens



©Vinayaraj (4)



Leaves :  
30 cm

Brown stipules



©Paul en Marianne (5)

Reddish, hollow and erect stems

©Nele Van Hemelen (6)

## Not to be confused with

### *Bistorta officinalis* - Native

- Simple light green leaves, narrowed at the base
- Pink flowers, in oblong-cylindrical and compact terminal spike



©Agnieszka Kwiecień, Nova (7)

### *Rumex obtusifolius* - Native

- Very large oval leaves with petioles and slight wavy edges
- Green flowers in very close whorls, in clusters



©Saxifraga-Jasenska Topic (8)

### *Fallopia japonica* - Exotic

- Alternate leaf arrangement with ovate-triangular leaf blades, truncated at the base



©Michael Gasperi (9)

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4: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Persicaria\\_wallichii\\_-\\_Himalayan\\_knotweed\\_at\\_Chelela\\_Pass\\_during\\_LGFC\\_-\\_Bhutan\\_2019\\_\(1\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Persicaria_wallichii_-_Himalayan_knotweed_at_Chelela_Pass_during_LGFC_-_Bhutan_2019_(1).jpg)  
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8: <http://www.freenatureimages.eu/Plants/Flora%20-%20R/Rumex%20obtusifolius%2C%20Bitter%20Dock/index.html>  
9: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fallopia\\_japonica\(Blaetter\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fallopia_japonica(Blaetter).jpg)