

# Chinese lizard tail

*Houttuynia cordata*

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species



©Dinkum (1)



Invasive species native to Asia.

Rare in the wild in Belgium

Found in **wetlands** and **cool forest environments**, in partially shaded sites



**Terrestrial or submerged semi-aquatic perennial plant.**

Grows to heights of 30 to 40 cm

There is a cultivar with tricolour leaves which has, however, not been observed in the wild yet



©Deb Nystrom (2)

Fast growing rhizomatous species forming **dense stands**



©zmp (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

Heart-shaped leaves arranged alternately (length < 1.5 width) along the stem

Small yellow flowers crowded into a short spike



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Leaves : 4 to 10 cm

4 white, petal-like bracts at the base. Can have double flowers

Strong, peppery, lemon-like scent

## Not to be confused with

### *Saururus cernuus* - Exotic



©Eric Hunt (5)

- Flowers aggregated in long spikes curved downwards
- Light green lower leaf surface
- Larger plant size

### Seedlings of *Fallopia* spp. - Exotic

- Alternate leaf arrangement with leaves not or slightly cordate at the base and straight edges
- Reddish stems with marked nodes



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1: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Houttuynia\\_cordata\\_-\\_Parc\\_floral.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Houttuynia_cordata_-_Parc_floral.JPG)

2: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stella12/19845376322>

3: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/85510539>

4: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Houttuynia\\_cordata\\_03.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Houttuynia_cordata_03.jpg)

5: <https://www.drta-archiv.de/amerikanischer-eidechschwanz/>