

Research paper

Persicaria humilis (Polygonaceae) a Newly Recorded Plant in Taiwan

Shih-Wen Chung¹, Tian-Chuan Hsu^{2,*}

【Abstract】 *Persicaria humilis* (Polygonaceae) is newly recorded from Taiwan. Morphologically, *P. humilis* is very close to *P. nepalensis* but readily distinguished by the often much smaller habits, smaller leaves with sparse long glandular hairs on both surfaces and inflorescences without leafy involucres.

【Key words】 New record, *Persicaria humilis*, Polygonaceae, Taiwan, Taxonomy

研究報告

台灣蓼科新記錄種—矮蓼

鐘詩文¹ 許天銓^{2,*}

【摘要】 本文報導台灣蓼科新紀錄種—矮蓼(*Persicaria humilis*)。形態上矮蓼與尼泊爾蓼(*P. nepalensis*)相當接近，但植物體通常更加矮小，葉片較小且兩面疏被長腺毛，花序亦無葉狀總苞。

【關鍵詞】 新紀錄、矮蓼、蓼科、台灣、分類學

【Introduction】 The genus *Persicaria* (Polygonaceae) comprises ca. 160 species with a nearly worldwide distribution (Brandbyge, 1993). Systematic position and delimitation of this genus was debated for quite a long time but is now almost stabilized due to very comprehensive morphological studies (Haraldson, 1978; Ronse Decraene *et al.*, 2000) and molecular analyses (Sanchez *et al.*, 2009; 2011; Schuster *et al.*, 2011). In Taiwan, 32 species were recorded in the latest flora treatment (Kuo *et al.*, 1996, all placed under *Polygonum s.l.*), and a naturalized species, *Persicaria capitatum*, was further added (Hsu *et al.*, 2004). Herein, we present the first record of *Persicaria humilis* (Meisn.) H. Hara in Taiwan with morphological description and illustration.

1. 10066台北市南海路53號.

Botanic Garden Division, Taiwan Forest Research Institute, No. 53, Nanhai Rd., Taipei 10066, Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-23039978 ext.2705. Fax: +886-2-23076220

2.* 通訊作者，國立清華大學，30013新竹市光復路二段101號

Institute of Molecular & Cellular Biology, National Tsing Hua University, No. 101, Section 2, Kuang-Fu Rd., Hsinchu 30013, Taiwan
email: lecanorchis@gmail.com

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Persicaria humilis (Meisn.) H.Hara, J. Jap. Bot. 53(5): 134. 1978; Grierson & D.G.Long, Fl. Bhutan 1(1): 164. 1983. 矮蓼 Fig. 1-2.

Basionym: *Polygonum humile* Meisn., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 3: 59. 1832; DC., Prodr. 14: 128. 1856; Hook.f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 41. 1886; Li et al., Fl. China 5: 303. 2003.

Morphology: Herbs annual, 3-12 cm tall. Stems decumbent, branched, sparsely long glandular hairy below nodes. Leaves ovate, 5-15 × 3-7 mm, apex acute, base cuneate, decurrent into a very short petiole, both surfaces sparsely long glandular hairy; ocrea tubular, membranous, sparsely long glandular hairy, margin not ciliate. Inflorescence terminal, capitate, 3-5 mm in diam.; peduncle 8-20 mm, sparsely long glandular hairy; bracts ovate-lanceolate, acute, 2.5-3 mm long, glabrous, margin not ciliate, each 1-flowered. Perianth pinkish or white, 5-lobed, glabrous, tepals elliptic, ca. 1 mm long, acute; stamens 5 or 6; style bilobed above middle, included. Achenes black, nearly orbicular, biconvex, ca. 1 mm in diam., not shining.

Distribution: Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Taiwan (Chiayi)

Ecology: Semi-exposed rocky grassy cliffs. Flowering and fruiting observed in September and October.

Taxonomic note: *Persicaria humilis* is very close to *P. nepalensis* (Meisn.) H.Gross but distinguished by the often much smaller habits, smaller leaves with sparse long glandular hairs on both surfaces and inflorescences without leafy involucre.

Voucher specimens: Chiayi County (嘉義縣): Alishan Township (阿里山鄉), Datashan (大塔山), 2400-2500 m elev., 13. Sep. 2012,

S.W.Chung 11208 (TAIF); same location, 3 Oct. 2014, S.W.Chung 11804 (TAIF).

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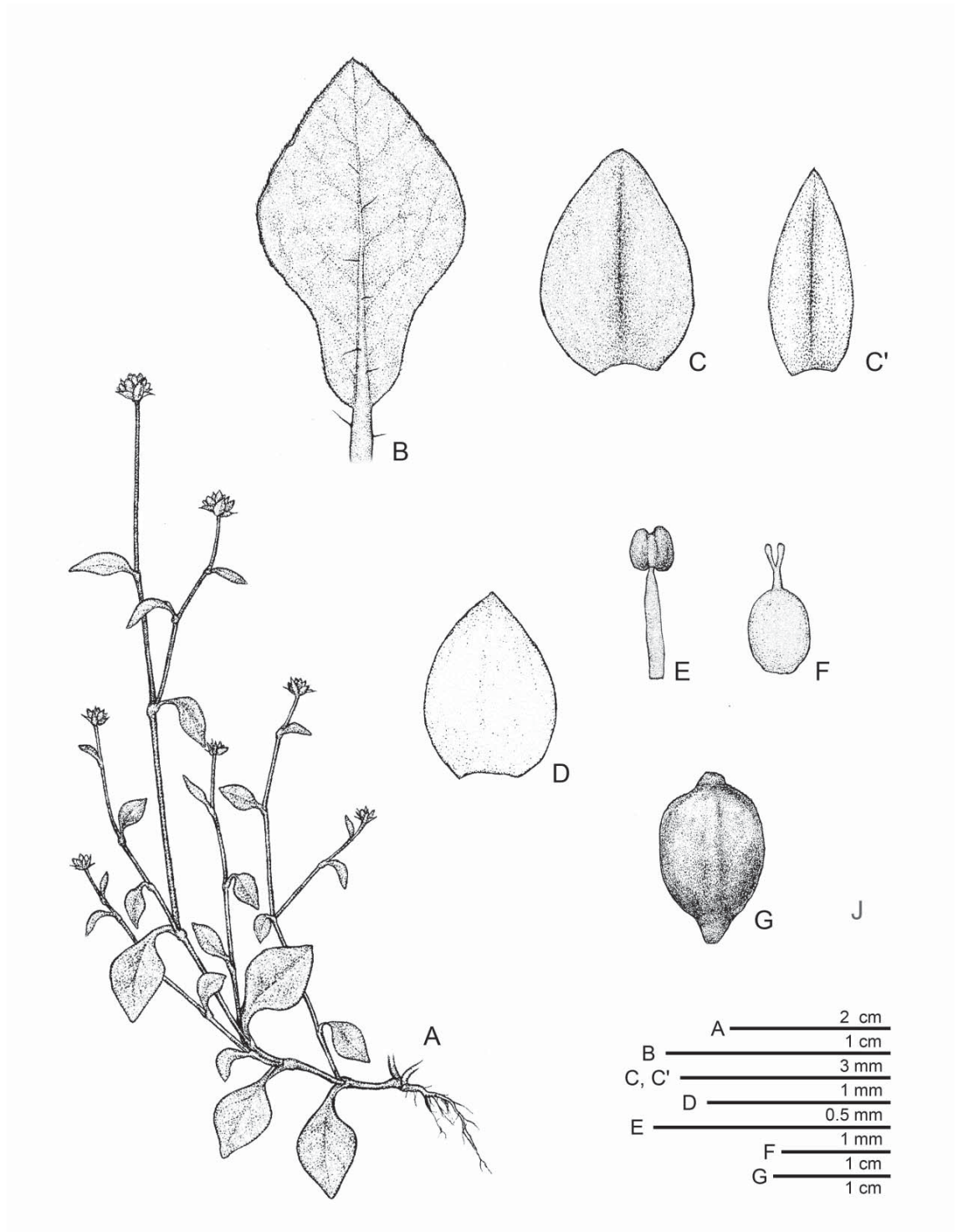


Fig 1. *Persicaria humilis* (Meisn.) H.Hara. A, habit; B, leaf; C, outer bract; C' , inner bract; D, tepal; E, stamen; F, pistil; G, achene.

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Fig 2. *Persicaria humilis* (Meisn.) H.Hara. A, habit; B, stem and leaf; C, ocrea; D, inflorescence; E, flower.