

## *Persicaria hydropiper* (L.) Delarbre

### Family:

Polygonaceae

Delarbre, A. (1800) *Flore de la ci-devant Auvergne. Flore d' Auvergne Edn. 2, 2*: 518

### Common name:

Water Pepper; Pepper, Water

### Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a weedy shrub about 1-2 m tall.

### Leaves

Leaf blades about 12.5-13 x 1.5-2 cm, petioles about 1-1.5 cm long, slightly winged. Stipules about 1.8-2.1 cm long, fused to form a fringed sheath enclosing the stem. Lateral veins about 18-20 or more on each side of the leaf blade.

### Flowers

Perianth segments about 2-3 mm long, with numerous small glands on the outer surface. Stamens 7 alternating with 7 small glands at the base.

### Fruit

Style and stigma persistent at the apex and the rest of the fruit enclosed in the persistent perianth. Each nut about 2-2.5 x 1.5-2 mm, seeds solitary, slightly smaller. Embryo white, about 1.5-2 mm long. Cotyledons shorter but wider than the radicle.

### Seedlings

Cotyledons about 7-8 x 4 mm, petioles about 2-3 mm long. First pair of leaves elliptic to ovate, about 17 x 6 mm, apex acute to apiculate, base cuneate to attenuate. At the tenth leaf stage: petiole with sheathing membranous base which surrounds the stem for about 5-20 mm. Seed germination time 27 days.

### Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to Victoria and westwards to Western Australia. Altitudinal range in NEQ not known but collected at 600 m. In NEQ grows in disturbed rain forest in close proximity to water. Widespread in the northern hemisphere.

### Synonyms

*Polygonum hydropiper* L., *Species Plantarum* 2: 361(1753), Type: Habitat in Europae subhumidis. *Persicaria hydropiper* (L.) Spach, *Histoire Naturelle des Vegetaux* 10: 536 (1841).

### RFK Code

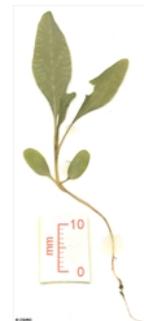
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Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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