

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

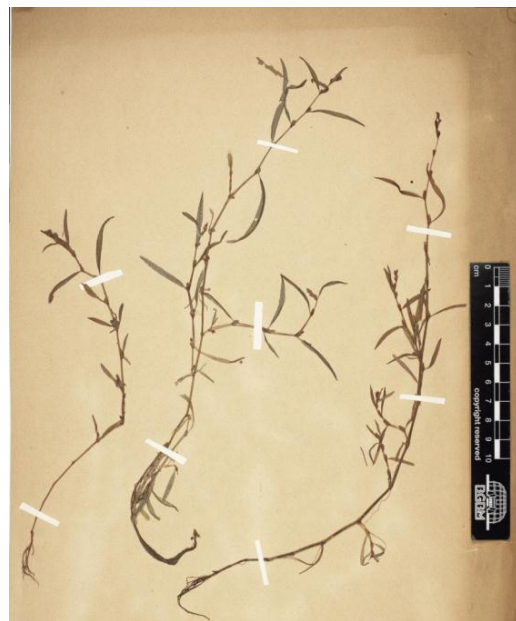
*Persicaria foliosa*

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Persicaria foliosa</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Magnoliopsida Order: Caryophyllales Family: Polygonaceae	Species authority: (H. Lindb.) Kitag. 1937	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Polygonum foliosum</i> H. Lindb.	Generation length: 1 year	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Overgrowth of open areas (A04.03, K4.01), Eutrophication (H01.05), Construction (D03, E01, J02.02.02)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Overgrowth of open areas (A04.03, K4.01), Eutrophication (H01.05), Construction (D03, E01, J02.02.02)	
IUCN Criteria: <b>B2ab(ii,iii,iv,v)</b>	HELCOM Red List Category:	<b>EN</b> Endangered
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE / NT	Habitats Directive: Annex II	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland protected under the Nature Conservation Decree/ <b>EN</b> , Germany –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/ <b>NT</b> in Red Data Book of St. Petersburg Nature, Sweden –/ <b>NT</b>		

## Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

*Persicaria foliosa* has its main distribution areas in Finland and Sweden and it also occurs in Russia (Jalas & Suominen 1979). Nowadays its only known occurrence in the Russian waters is in the Neva Bay in the Gulf of Finland. There is also an old record from one location in Estonia (Anderberg & Anderberg 2010). The species is rather rare throughout its distribution area and its populations have declined both in Finland and Sweden. In Finland it is regarded Endangered (Rassi et al. 2010) and in Sweden Near Threatened (Swedish Species Information Centre 2010). Quite large proportion of the population lives along the Baltic Sea coast, where the decline has been less severe than in inland locations.

This species is included in Red Data Book of St. Petersburg Nature (Noskov 2004), Red Data Book of Eastern Fennoscandia and Red Data Book of Baltic Region.



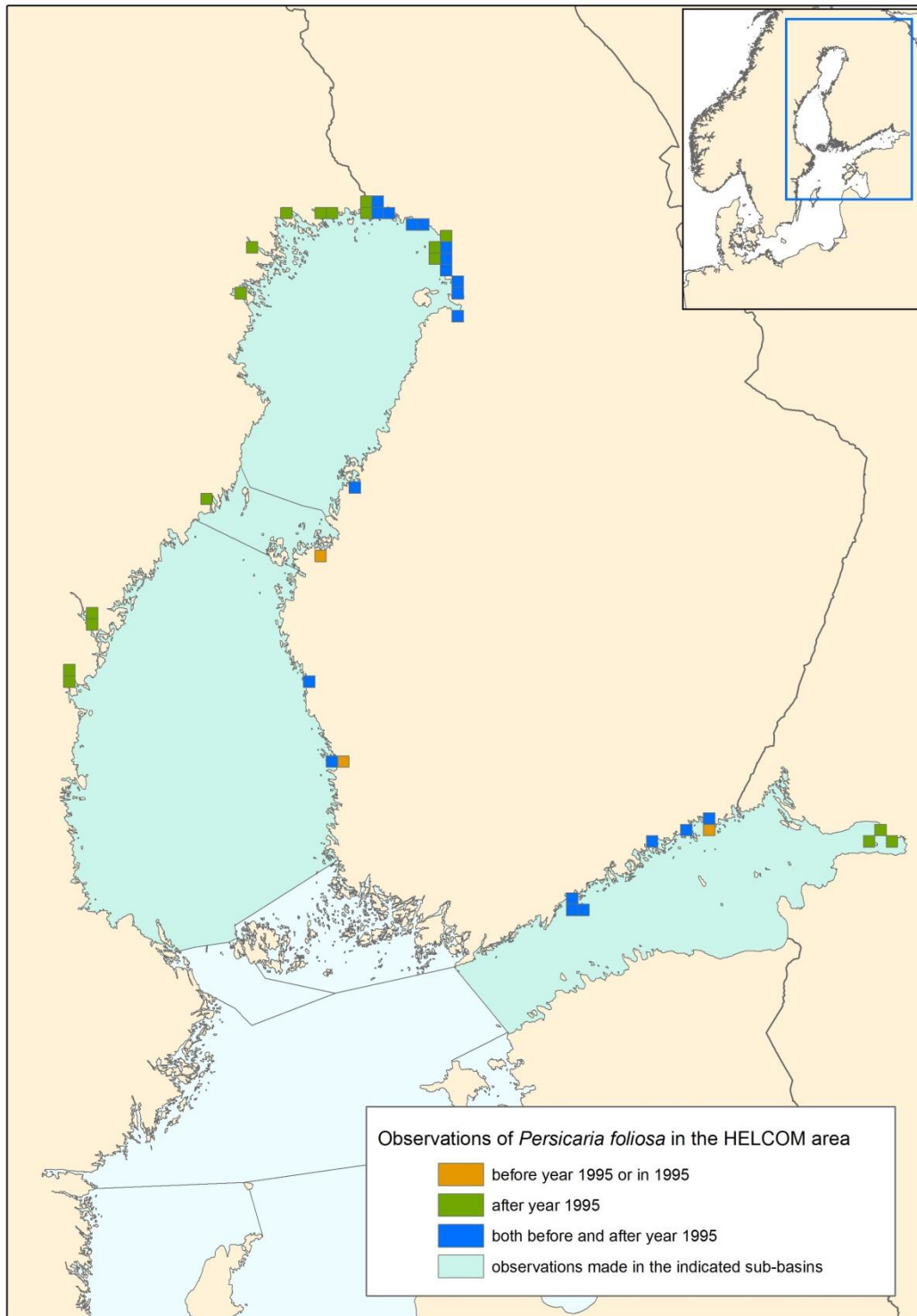
*Persicaria foliosa*. Photo by: Röpert, D. (Ed.) 2000– (continuously updated): Digital specimen images at the Herbarium Berlinense.

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## Distribution map

The records of the species compiled from the Finnish database of threatened species (Hertta), the Swedish Species Gateway, and Russian monitoring data and literature. The species occurs also in the central and southern Finland and Sweden but the inland occurrences are not shown on the map. It should be noted that many of the occurrences along the Finnish coastline are currently regarded extinct, although some of the records are rather recent and were made after 1995 (Ryttäri et al. 2012).



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## *Persicaria foliosa*

### Habitat and ecology

*Persicaria foliosa* is an annual small plant that grows on the shores of lakes, rivers and the Baltic Sea in shallow water, usually among reeds. It prefers soft sandy or sandy-silty sediment bottoms. The species grows also in rocky pools in the outer archipelago. *P. foliosa* is a very weak competitor that benefits from processes that keep part of the habitat open, e.g. grazing of shore meadows, ice-scouring, large changes in water level and continuous deposition of fine material. The salinity limit is probably c. 3 ‰.

### Description of major threats

Overgrowth by higher vegetation (e.g. reed) after cessation of grazing or due to eutrophication. In inland waters also water engineering and regulation of water level. Coastal engineering has had a negative impact on the species. In the eastern Gulf of Finland the populations have decreased considerably after the dam construction in the Neva Bay.

*Persicaria foliosa* is also very sensitive to water pollution, caused both by eutrophication and contaminants (Noskov 2004).

### Assessment justification

In the HELCOM area (incl. inland waters), the geographic range of the species is restricted in the form of area of occupancy (AOO) and the population is also considered both continuingly declining and severely fragmented. Using only coastal occurrences, the estimate of AOO is c. 250 km<sup>2</sup>. If inland occurrences were also taken into account, the AOO estimate would be c. 850 km<sup>2</sup> for the Swedish and Finnish occurrences. The species occurs also in Russia, in the easternmost part of the Gulf of Finland. The extent of occurrences (EOO), the number of locations and the number of mature individuals exceed the thresholds in the Red List criteria. The continuing decline of the population is assumed to concern at least AOO, the quality of the habitat, number of locations and number of mature individuals. The species meets the criteria for Endangered (B2ab(ii,iii,iv,v)).

### Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Growing sites should be protected from urbanisation and other human disturbance. Starting cattle grazing again on coastal meadows would possibly create suitable open habitat patches for the species in shallow water. The species would probably also benefit from any actions that could reduce the effects of eutrophication.

### Common names

Denmark: –, Estonia: leht-kirburohi, Finland: lietetatar, Germany: –, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: (rdest), Russia: Горец многолистный, Sweden: ävjepilört

### References

- Aronsson, M., Edqvist, M., Andersson, U.-B., Bertilsson, A., Ericsson, S., Mattiasson, G. & Ståhl, P. (2010). Kärleväxter – Vascular Plants. Tracheophyta. In Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2010 – The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. P. 201–221. Red List categories available also at <http://www.artfakta.se/GetSpecies.aspx?SearchType=Advanced>  
Hertta, the database of threatened species in Finland. Finnish Environment Institute.

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Ståhl, P. (1995). Revised by B. Stridh 2007. *Persicaria foliosa* ävjepilört. Artfaktablad. Swedish Species Information Centre. Available at: [http://www.artfakta.se/Artfaktablad/Persicaria\\_Foliosa\\_1263.pdf](http://www.artfakta.se/Artfaktablad/Persicaria_Foliosa_1263.pdf)

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