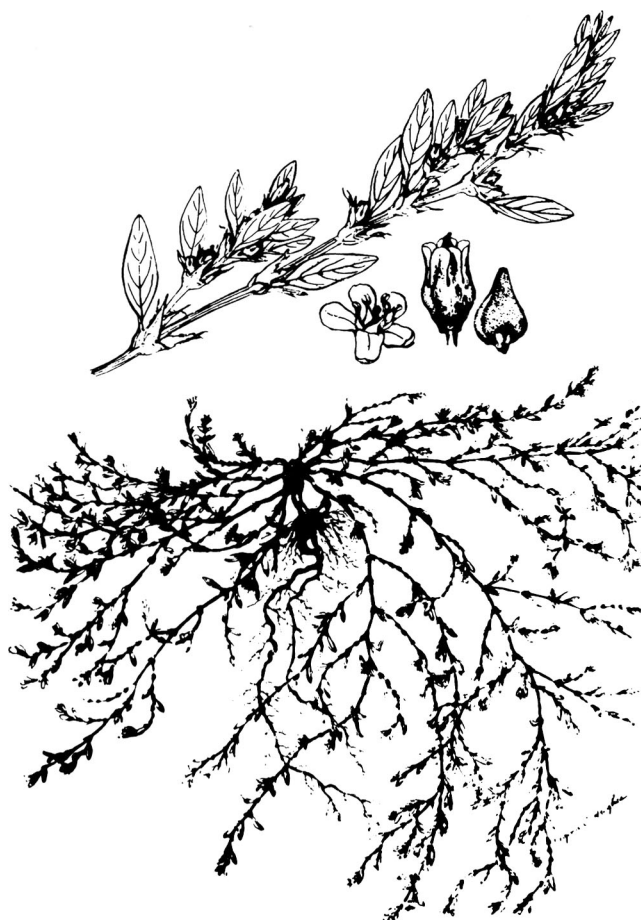


280. *POLYGONUM AVICULARE* L. (POLYGONACEAE) — Prostrate Knotweed

Weed, sometimes used to make tea,¹⁶ known commercially as Weidemannscher tea and Homeriana tea.³ Used as a substitute for ergot in Russia.³³ Bactericidal. Although regarded as a folk remedy for malaria, tests have proven negative.

Used in folk medicine for tumors and cancers, especially of the kidneys, mammarys, or stomach.⁴ A mild astringent formerly employed as a vulnerary and styptic. Used in some countries of Europe as a home remedy for cancer, chancroids, diabetes, diarrhea, dysentery, dysuria, gonorrhea, gout, hemorrhoids, hypertension, malaria, nephrosis, night sweats, rheumatism, stones, tonsillitis, tuberculosis, and vaginitis.³² Toward the end of the 19th century, Hemero tea derived from it was esteemed for asthma and bronchitis in Germany and Austria.⁸ Said to be a good gargle and remedy for inflammatory diseases of the tissues.² Used for gonorrhea in Malaya.¹⁶ In China, where considered anthelmintic, antidiarrheic, astringent, diuretic, and emollient the plant is employed for chancroid, cholera, eczema, fever, hemorrhoids, jaundice, menorrhagia, pruritis, stomachache, and sunstroke.^{12,16} The herb has been classified anodyne, antiperiodic, antiseptic, astringent, cholagogue, demulcent, diuretic, emetic, emollient, expectorant, hemostat, laxative, tonic, vasoconstricting, vermifuge, and vulnerary.^{27,32,33}

“Contains the glycosides, quercetin 3-araboside and avicularin” ($C_{20}H_{18}O_{11}$).⁸ Also, contains calcium oxalate, polygonic acid, salicylic acid, tannic acid, and a trace of volatile oil. Avicularin, catechin, delphinidin, hyperin, myricetin, quercetin, quercitrin, and rutin