1	Plants climbers or twiners.	(2)
+	Plants erect or scrambling.	(3)
2 (1)	Plants twining. Inner 2 perianth segments thinner, flat, outer 3 cucculate, keeled or winged.	9 *Fallopia*
+	Plants climbing by tendrils. All perianth segments alike.	19 *Antigonon*
3 (1)	Plants with flattened, thin jointed, ribbon-like phylloclades.	1 *Homalocladium*
+	Phylloclades absent. Stem cylindrical.	(4)
4 (3)	Racemes very long (up to 40 cm). Styles hardened, persistent and hooked.	18 *Antenoron*
+	Racemes absent; if present, then seldom more than 10 cm long. Styles sometimes persistent but neither hardened nor hooked.	(5)
5 (4)	Perianth 3-5 – partite.	(8)
+	Perianth 6 – partite.	(6)
6 (5)	Outer perianth segments spiny in fruit.	14 *Emex*
+	Outer perianth segments though sometimes toothed or tuberculate but never spiny in fruit.	(7)
7 (6)	Perianth segments in one whorl, not accrescent. Stamens 7-9. Style very small and rounded. Nuts winged.	12 *Rheum*
+	Perianth segments in two whorls, inner segments accrescent, enveloping the triquetrous nuts. Stamens 6. Styles fimbriate. Nuts not winged.	13 *Rumex*
8 (5)	Stamens 12-18. Fruits usually covered with long and much branched setae.	17 *Calligonum*
+	Stamens 1-8. Fruits not as above.	(9)
9 (8)	Flowers arranged in spiciform or capitate inflorescence. Nectaries usually present and conspicuous around the stamens. All stamens of the same size, usually not enlarged at the base. Tepal venation trifid.	(12)
+	Flowers in axillary clusters. Nectaries usually absent or inconspicuous around the stamens. Stamens usually enlarged and inflated at the base, inner larger. Tepal venation dendricular or anastomosing.	(10)
10 (9)	Fruits winged.	15 *Pteropyrum*
+	Fruits not winged.	(11)
11 (10)	Plants annual or perennial herbs, branches not ending into spines. Stamens usually less than 8. Fruits not enclosed by the perianth.	8 *Polygonum*
+	Plants shrubs, branches often ending into spines. Stamens 8. Fruit enclosed by the accrescent perianth.	16 *Atraphaxis*
12 (9)	Perianth 4-partite, 2 outer segments smaller, becoming reflexed, inner 2, large erect. Stigma fimbriate. Nuts prominently winged.	11 *Oxyria*
+	Perianth 3-5 partite, if 4-partite then not as above. Stigma not fimbriate. Nuts not or very minutely winged.	(13)
13 (12)	At least lower leaves deltoid. Perianth lobes almost free. Stamen filaments winged. Nuts 2-3 times longer than perianth lobes.	10 *Fagopyrum*
+	Leaves of various shapes but not deltoid. Perianth lobes fused up to ½ or more of their length. Stamen filaments not winged. Nuts equalling or shorter than perianth lobes.	(14)
14 (13)	Flowers in dense to lax, clearly defined, spike-like or capitate inflorescence.	(15)
+	Flowers in diffused small clusters of large loose panicle-like inflorescences or terminal leafy flat topped corymb.	(16)
15 (14)	Annual or rarely perennating by rooting branches.Leaves more evenly distributed along the stem, without prominent veins. Style 1, bifid or trifid. Number of floral parts often reduced.	4 *Persicaria*
+	Strongly rhizomatous perennial herbs. Basal leaves well developed, with prominent veins. Styles 3, free and elongate. Number of floral parts mostly constant.	7 *Bistorta*
16 (14)	Nectaries confluent into the disc, associated with club shaped papillae. Perianth not fleshy in fruit. Pollen grains spinulose.	3 *Koenigia*
+	Nectaries free, fused with the inner stamens or confluent at the base. Papillae mostly absent, if present then cylindrical, pollen grains not spinulose.	(17)
17 (16)	Leaves gradually narrowed towards base, ± hastate with 2 short, obtusish or rarely acute auricles; nuts black.	6 *Knorringia*
+	Leaves cuneate or rounded at base, always without auricles; nuts buff or brown.	(18)
18 (17)	Styles very short, obconic several times shorter than the ovary, stigma very large. Pollen 3-colpate or 3-colporate.	2 *Aconogonon*
+	Styles columner, slightly shorter than the ovary; stigmas short. Pollen 6-colpate.	5 *Rubrivena*