

Thoroughwort *Eupatorium chinense*

some days bring good luck
the sun shines buds open
the botanist in the woods
discovers a previously unrecorded species

an alien from another continent
where it may be common
but here it is a jewel
this insignificant off-white inflorescence

19 March 2014
for Rosalie and Carlo



Eupatorium chinense var. *sachalinense*) August 2011 China

'One name often covered plants which we should put in quite different categories, and the same name had different meanings in different places and at different times. This is true, of course, of all popular, traditional plant nomenclature. Friend, in his *Flowers and Folklore* (1884) tells us that in his day 'cowslip' in Devonshire often meant fox-glove, but that in Teignmouth people called buttercups 'cowslips'. In North Devon, he says, Fox-gloves are called poppies!

One must try to use English words even if they are only makeshift. Thoroughwort is awkward to handle metrically, and is not a word that would convey anything to most readers. I have stuck to orchid as a translation.'
Arthur Waley *The Nine Songs*. Allen & Unwin 1955

the only *Eupatorium* species found in Europe is *cannabinum*
Hemp Agrimony, in Irish *seachóg Mhuire* Mary's Little Bush.