

Dendrocnide

<i>Dendrocnide</i>	
	
<i>Dendrocnide meyeniana</i>	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Rosales
Family:	Urticaceae
Genus:	<i>Dendrocnide</i>
Species	
37 species	

Dendrocnide is a genus of 37 species of shrubs to large trees in the nettle family Urticaceae. They have a wide distribution across Southeast Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands.^[1]

They are colloquially known as **stinging trees**, **stinging nettles** or **nettle trees**. One Australian species, *Dendrocnide excelsa* (giant stinging tree), can grow to over 40 metres in height, but the dangerous *Dendrocnide moroides* (**gympie-gympie**) is only shrub-size.

In Vanuatu, where *Dendrocnide* species are known by the Bislama name *nanggalat*, they have various customary uses, including the whipping of those found guilty of breaking taboos. The pain caused by merely touching the *nanggalat* is no worse than the sting of a common European nettle, but far more persistent, returning whenever the affected area of skin is touched by water, an effect that may last for days.

Dendrocnide species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species, including *Aenetus scotti*.

Selected species

- *Dendrocnide sinuata*
- *Dendrocnide corallodesme*
- *Dendrocnide cordata*
- *Dendrocnide excelsa*, giant stinging tree
- *Dendrocnide meyeniana*, lipa tree
- *Dendrocnide moroides*, gympie gympie
- *Dendrocnide peltata*
- *Dendrocnide photinophylla*, shiny-leaved stinging tree

References

- [1] ABRIS Flora of Australia Online Search Results (<http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/online-resources/flora/stddisplay.xsql?pnid=185>)

Further reading

- Stewart, Amy (2009). *Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities*. Etchings by Briony Morrow-Cribbs. Illustrations by Jonathon Rosen. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. ISBN 978-1-56512-683-1.

Article Sources and Contributors

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