

# Dendrocnide

<i>Dendrocnide</i>	
	
<i>Dendrocnide meyeniana</i>	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Rosales
Family:	Urticaceae
Genus:	<i><b>Dendrocnide</b></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.<sup>[1]</sup>

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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