PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Dendrocnide moroides (Wedd.) Chew

GENUS *Dendrocnide* **FAMILY** Urticaceae

COMMON NAMES Gympie stinger, Mulberry-leaved Stinger, Stinging bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The hairs sting badly making eating the fruit very difficult. The stinging hairs can create serious medical complications.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub up to 4 m high. The leaves are simple and 11-28 cm long. Both sides of the leaves have stinging hairs. Plants are separately male and female. The fruit are 1.6 cm long by 1.8 cm wide. They occur in bunches in the axils of leaves. The colour can be white or pink. There are several seeds inside. The seeds are 1-2 mm across. The fruit is edible once the stinging hairs have been removed.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It grows naturally in rainforest in Queensland and New South Wales in Australia. It grows from sea level to 900 m above sea level. It is best in a rich, well-composted soils. It grows in an open, sunny position. It is damaged by frost and drought.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are 36 Dendrocnide species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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