

URTICACEAE – NETTLE FAMILY

Plant: mostly herbs locally; vines, shrubs and trees in tropical regions

Stem: some with stinging hairs on stem and/or leaves

Root:

Leaves: simple, mostly opposite but some alternate; stipules present except in the genus *Parietaria*

Flowers: mostly monoecious or dioecious, rarely perfect or some combination; flowers often greenish or yellowish, solitary or in clusters in leaf axils; mostly 4-5 sepals (variable), no petals; stamens usually 4-5 (variable); ovary superior, 1 carpel, 1 style, 1 ovule

Fruit: variable, achene or nut-like or drupe, usually 1 seed, fleshy or not

Other: some nettles known for stinging hairs, some people more sensitive than others; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 49+ genera; locally *Boehmeria*, *Laportea*, *Parietaria* (pellitory), *Pilea* (clearweed), *Urtica* (nettle, stinging nettle)

URTICACEAE – NETTLE FAMILY

[Smallspike] False Nettle [Bog-Hemp]; *Boehmeria cylindrica* (L.) Sw.

[Canadian] Wood Nettle; *Laportea canadensis* (L.) Weddell

Clearweed; *Pilea pumila* (L.) Gray

Stinging Nettle; *Urtica dioica* L.

[Smallspike] False Nettle [Bog-Hemp]

Boehmeria cylindrica (L.) Sw.

Urticaceae (Nettle Family)

Oak Openings Metro Park, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: calyx flower (no petals), green and small, flower clusters from leaf axils often with small leaves at end of unbranched spikes; leaves opposite, ovate to lanceolate, sharply serrate, with 3 main veins from base; stem with no or few stinging hairs (variable); summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2005]



[Canadian] Wood Nettle

Laportea canadensis (L.) Weddell

Urticaceae (Nettle Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: small greenish flowers on long spikes from leaf axils;
leaves alternate, ovate, serrate, with stinging hairs, on long
petioles; stem very hairy with stinging hairs; summer to early
fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]



[Canadian] Clearweed

Pilea pumila (L.) Gray

Urticaceae (Nettle Family)

Oak Openings Metro Park, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: calyx flowers green, small (no petals) in axial cymes;
leaves opposite, ovate, long pointed, coarsely toothed, no
stinging hairs; stem is somewhat translucent; moist areas;
summer to fall (ID tentative – only by achene)

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Stinging Nettle

Urtica dioica L.

Urticaceae (Nettle Family)

Oak Openings Metro Park, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: calyx flowers green, flower spikes from leaf axils and are longer than petioles; leaves opposite, lanceolate, rounded at base, serrate; stinging hairs present; summer to fall; varieties present but plant highly variable

[V Max Brown, 2005]

