

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Fleshy stalks on 'seeds', and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Bunya Mountain National Park, Qld.



Insect chewed leaf. Photographer Peter Woodard, Gumbaynggir National Park, west of Nambucca Heads



Lower trunk. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Tooloom National Park NSW, SW of Warwick, Qld



Tree. Photographer Craig Hodges, Bellbird Nature Refuge, NE of Killarney, Qld

## Common name

Giant stinging tree

## Family

Urticaceae

## Where found

**Forest**, particularly following disturbance, and gullies. Coast, ranges, and the eastern edge of the tablelands, north from Merimbula and Bombala.

## Notes

Tree to 40 m tall. Stinging hairs cause an intense persistent sting. Stalks of individual 'seeds' very fleshy. Trunks of larger trees **fluted** and buttressed. Bark smooth, pale brown to grey. Stems densely hairy with **simple** and stinging hairs. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, usually 10–25 cm long, 70–200 mm wide, deeply **cordate** at the base, often with the two lobes overlapping, margins toothed to almost **entire**, tips pointed, surfaces sparsely to densely covered with stinging hairs, especially the larger **juvenile** leaves. Male and female flowers on different plants, greenish white, small. Male flowers with 4 or 5 '**petals**', female flowers with 4 '**petals**'. Flowers in branched clusters to 12 cm long. Fleshy stalks on 'seeds' white to pink or purplish, to 5 mm long.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Dendrocnide~excelsa> (accessed 9 January, 2021)

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