**Dendrocnide spp**

**Common name:**
Stinging tree.

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Unlikely.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to livestock and humans.

**Poisonous Principle:**
- Haemolytic saponins, and morodoin,
- Unknown toxins,
- Stinging hairs contain acetylcholine, histamine and 5 hydroxy tryptomine.

**Effects:**

*Signs and Symptoms:*
- Severe and painful skin irritation.
- Horses are particularly vulnerable.
- Local sweating and itchy pain.

*Health and Production Problems:*
- Pain is intolerable and long-lasting, and recurs when the affected part is washed, even weeks later.

*Treatment:*
- Anti-histamine cream immediately.
- Cunjevoi juice may also help.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
Not feasible.

**Comments:**
- Five spp in Australia, found from Cape York to Kiama and Nepean area in NSW.
- *D photinophylla*, Shiny-leaf stinger, to Nepean
- *D excelsa*, Giant stinger, to Kiama.
- Grows on the edges of rain forests, and in clearings.
- Large trees, grey bark, soft spongy wood.

*Leaves are large, heart shaped, with two rounded lobes at the base, margins may be toothed, and young leaves are covered with large, stiff, stinging hairs.*

*Flowers are insignificant, yellowish green, male and female on separate trees, from summer to autumn.*

*Some spp have small berries similar to raspberries. All fruits are edible, but should have the hairs removed before eating.*

*The nut is small and black, with a single seed, on a succulent, pale stalk, covered with stinging hairs.*

*Irritant toxins are injected through the skin by hollow plant hairs.*

*Timber workers and bush walkers may be affected.*

*Horses are particularly vulnerable and may be in a frenzy of agony and have to be euthanased.*

*Pain may persist for several weeks.*

*Dried plant retains toxicity (for over 40 years).*

*There is no satisfactory relief.*

Further Reading:
- McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000
- Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004