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# Gympie-Gympie

## A Deadly Plant with Painful Sting

*Its venomous sting is known to inflict pain that lasts for days and is extremely painful.*



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**O**NE of the world's most venomous plants, *Dendrocnide moroides*, is also known as the stinging bush, Gympie-gympie, moonlighter, or the suicide plant. The two ancient greek words in *Dendrocnide* are “*déndron*”, meaning “tree”, and “*kníde*”, meaning “stinging needle.” It belongs to the nettle family *Urticaceae* and can be found in rainforest regions of Malaysia and Australia.

It is well-known for causing a sting that lasts for days and is extremely painful. Due to its venomous sting, it is also known as the suicide plant. It gives a sensation of being burnt by hot acid and experiencing trickle electric shocks. When you feel this stinger, it can feel like a shiver running down your spine.

When touched, stinging hairs release a strong neurotoxin. The entire plant is covered in a very fine corsage of lethal silica needles that contain a strong neurotoxin. These hollow, sharp-pointed fibres are similar to hypodermic needles in that they break off near the tip to inject poison. Small needles cause writhing pain when removed from the skin; however, if the needles are not removed, toxin is released into the body, causing further writhing pain. In fact the dried leaves may also have toxins in their hair.

An unaware victim can inhale the needles in the air close to the plant and suffer respiratory problems as a result. Thus, it's frighteningly easy to get stung by a thousand of these stingers without ever touching them.

Contact with this leaf can cause human death, while it more commonly causes severe discomfort that can continue for weeks or even months. So, avoid being fooled by its amusing and innocent appearance and frizzy leaves; it may cause extreme pain.

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