

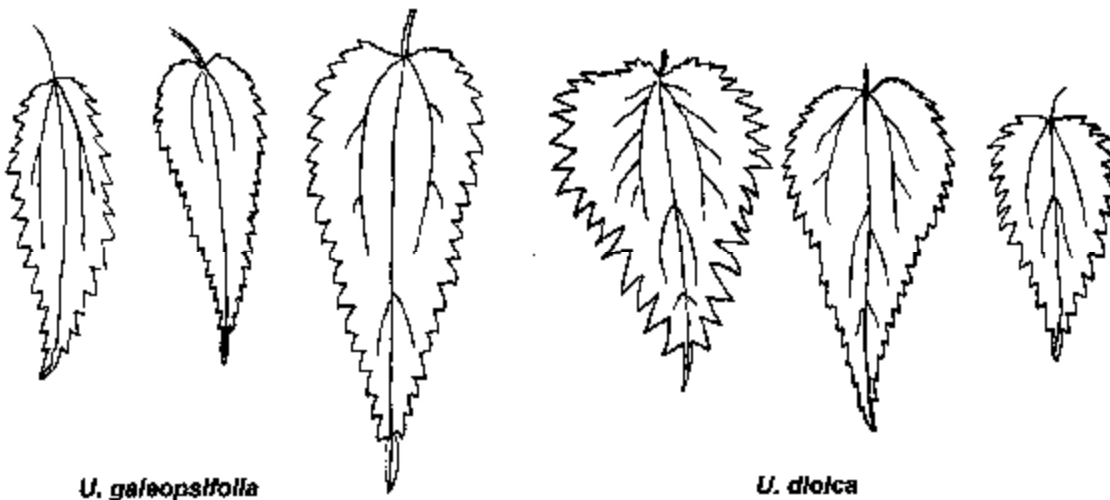
URTICA GALEOPSIFOLIA / U. DIOICA

The status of narrow-leaved nettles at Wicken Fen has been studied by Geltman (1992); who referred them to the eastern and central European taxon, *U. dioica* subsp. *galeopsifolia*. Subsequent investigations by McAllister (1999) showed these to be diploid ($2n = 26$), and *U. dioica* to be tetraploid ($2n = 52$).

Narrow-leaved *Urtica dioica* L. plants with few (or no?) stinging hairs occur scattered in damp habitats in England, Ireland and Scotland (e.g. *BSBI News* **68**: 10, **69**: 31, **75**: 48-49), and can be recorded as subsp. *galeopsifolia*. The situation may be considerably more complex than two taxa (Friday 1997).

Subsp. *galeopsifolia* (Wierzb. ex Opiz) Chrtek: Stinging hairs almost completely lacking, indumentum dense, of simple hairs; lowest flowering branches at nodes 13-22; flowering mid-July onwards; leaves usually long and narrow.

Subsp. *dioica*: Stinging hairs present; lowest flowering branches at nodes 7-14; flowering mid-June onwards; leaves variable, sometimes long and narrow.



- Reference** Friday, L. (1997). *Wicken fen*. Cambridge.
Geltman, D. V. (1992). *Watsonia* **19**: 127-129.
McAllister, H. A. (1999). *Watsonia* **22**:275-278