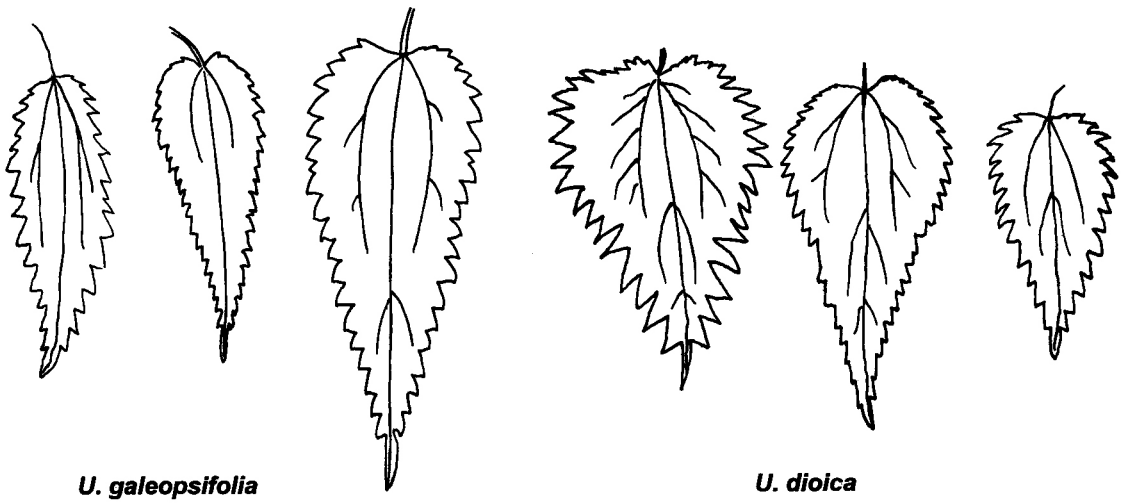
Plant Crib

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 species, *U. galeopsifolia*. Narrow-leaved plants with few (or no?) stinging hairs occur scattered in damp habitats through England and Scotland (e.g. *BSBI News* **68**: 10, **69**: 31, **75**: 48-49), and plants should thus be looked for elsewhere. The situation may however be considerably more complex (Friday 1997).

U. galeopsifolia Wierzb. ex Opiz: 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.

U. dioica L.: 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.

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