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Cnidoscolus stimulosus

[Synonyms : *Bivonea stimulosa*, *Jatropha stimulosa*, *Jatropha texana*, *Jatropha urens*]

BULL NETTLE is a perennial. Native to American tropics (and south-eastern North America) it has small fragrant, white or pink flowers.

It is also known as Finger rot, Nettle, Sand nettle, Spurge nettle, Stinging bush, Stinging nettle, Stinging spurge, Texas bull nettle, and Tread-softly.

The whole plant is covered in stinging hairs.

Warning – the fluid in the stinging hairs can cause painful and/or severe skin irritation.

Authorities consider that bull nettle should be viewed as potentially poisonous in other ways as well.

Stimulosus is derived from Latin *stimulus* (goad) meaning ‘well provided with stings’.

The common name Tread softly emerged from the painful experiences of the Negro slaves in the southern United States when barefoot they trod on bull nettle.