

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Pilea pumila*

[Synonyms : *Urtica pumila*]

**RICHWEED** is an annual. Native to tropical America it has tiny, white or greenish flowers. It is also known as Bastard nettle, Canadian clearweed, Churle-hemp, Clearweed, Coolweed, Coolwort, Dead nettle, False nettle, *Petite ortie* (French-Canadian), Silverweed, Stingless nettle, and Waterweed.

*Pumila* is Latin (dwarf).

While the North American Iroquois Indians are said to have used richweed for treating sinus problems, the Cherokee tribe not only prescribed an infusion for children eating to excess but also rubbed the stems around itchy toes.

Medicinally, local herbalists applied the bruised leaves to painful swellings and inflammation.