



# Boehmeria cylindrica

small-spike false nettle

Family Urticaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code FACW CoC 5

## DESCRIPTION

Strongly toothed margins are evident on the 4 to 18 cm long, simple, opposite, rough, lance to oval-shaped leaves of this tall perennial herb (to 1.5 m). It has a single stem with tiny hairs.

## FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through September. Flowers formed on long spike-like stalks (1 to 10 cm) from the leaf axils (where leaves meet stem). Female spikes are interrupted and male spikes are continuous. Fruits are achenes (dry one-seeded fruits that do not open to release the seed).

## HABITAT

Floodplain forests, swamps, seeps, marshes, and bogs.

## SIMILAR SPECIES

*Pilea pumila*, clearweed, has translucent “clear” stems and branched flower clusters, rather than the single spikes of *B. cylindrica*. Both lack the stinging hairs of *Laportea canadensis*, Canadian woodnettle, another similar species that also has alternate leaves and branched flower panicles at both the stem terminal and in leaf axils.



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*Boehmeria cylindrica*



*Pilea pumila*

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*Laportea canadensis*

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