

Catnip, *Nepeta cataria*: Its Ethnobotany, Anatomy, and Physiology

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The catnip plant, *Nepeta cataria* L., is important in economic botany for its commercial value in the pet industry for cats and in ethnobotany as an herbal medicinal treatment. The secondary plant metabolites which facilitate these uses are stored in microscopic glandular hairs (trichomes). The morphology, anatomy, and some novel mutations of the leaves and trichomes of catnip are explored through scanning and transmission electron microscopy. Trichomes are physiologically dependent on the epidermis. The medicinal uses and feliobotany (use by cats) will be detailed.