

17. Environment data fieldwork - Port Campbell National Park

Teacher notes

Notes on the use of the environment summary sheet.

1. MEASUREMENT OF HUMIDITY

Humidity can be measured using a wet and dry bulb thermometer. This instrument is made up of two thermometers. One reads the temperature of the air surrounding it; the other has a cloth jacket surrounding the bulb, which is kept continually moist. When the instrument is rotated several times, evaporation is promoted around the wet bulb hence cooling it. The amount of cooling can then be equated with humidity using the chart.

2. WIND MEASUREMENTS

Two measuring instruments are available.

a. VENTMETER

Hold the instrument vertically in front of you with the bottom hole facing into the wind. Read the scale. Convert the reading into metres per second using the second column of the table around the base.

b. WIND METER.

Hold the instrument vertically in front of you at eye level. The wind blows over the top of the tube creating a "suction" effect which causes the ball to rise. (Do not cover the two holes at the back of the instrument.) Read the left scale for the speed in metres per second.

3 pH METER

pH is a measure of acidity.

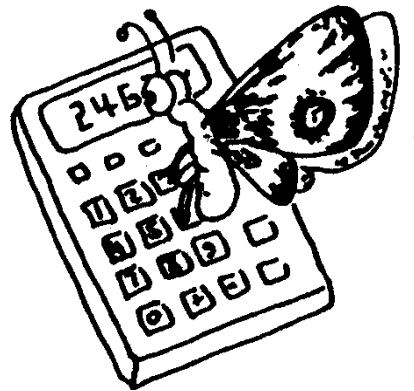
A reading of 1-6 indicates an acid environment. The lower the reading, the more acidic the soil.

A reading of 7-14 indicates an alkaline environment, for example, the presence

A reading of 7-8 indicates a called a neutral environment as it is neither acidic or alkaline. of lime in the soil.

4 LIGHT INTENSITY

This can simply be recorded by a light meter used in photography.



Environment summary sheet

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3 etc
Landform			
Gully			
Slope			
Swale			
Ridge			
Fairly flat			
Slope direction			
e.g. N. NE			
Wind speed / direction			
Speed			
Direction			
Wind protection			
Good			
Poor			
Protection provided by			
Dune			
Ridge			
Vegetation			
None			
Water availability			
Rain only			
Rain / slope drainage			
Humidity			
High			
Moderate			
Low			
Soil type / depth			
(e.g. Sandy, clay, loam, gravelly)			
Soil water retention			
Good			
Moderate			
Poor			
Soil pH			
Light intensity			
1.5 m above ground			
Ground level			
Vegetation type			
Height of trees			
Ground cover (e.g. bare, grass)			
Spacing of trees (est. in metres)			
Dominant species 1			
Dominant species 2			