

# NZ Epiphyte Survey Programme

## Explanatory Notes

General rule	The more information/notes, the better!
Required equipment	Binoculars, 5m flexible measuring tape, survey sheets, clipboard, pen, camera, Epiphyte ID guide, ID books.
<b>Basic information:</b>	
Location	Name of forest and track
Tree Number	Give the tree a number for your records
Photo Numbers	The file name/number for photos of this site, host tree and plants.
GPS coordinates	Preferable formats: NZTM or WGS84.
Vegetation type	List dominant tree species (e.g. rimu-tawa forest)
Vegetation density	Light (can see a person standing more than 40 strides away from you), Moderate (can see a person standing up to 40 strides away from you), or Dense (can see a person standing up to 20 strides from you)
Landform	Ridge, Face, Gully, Terrace or Other. In unsure, describe as best as possible.
Host tree species	Botanical name is preferable but māori and common names are also acceptable. A recommended resource is Poole & Adams (1994): Trees and Shrubs of NZ.
Host tree bark type	Bark type of the host tree - look from bottom to top: Smooth, Scaly, Peeling, Fibrous or Cracked.
Host tree diameter / circumference	Diameter of the host tree trunk. Using a diameter tape, measure the diameter of the host tree trunk at approximately breast height (1.35m). If you do not have a diameter tape (which has special markers for diameter), use a normal measuring tape & measure the circumference - please note which measurement you make!
Host tree height	Select a height range that the host tree fits within. Be careful not to over-estimate. Estimate the height based on the height of a person: have someone stand at the base of the tree then visualise how many of them it would take to reach the top.
Approximate distance from forest edge	Distance of the host tree from the edge of the forest. This can be tricky to estimate - it is best to use a map - if you can make an estimate it may be a useful predictor for edge effects and buffering.
<b>Recording epiphyte, vine &amp; mistletoe species:</b>	
<b>Step 1</b>	Choose an epiphyte, vine or mistletoe species and record its name in the first column.
<b>Step 2</b>	Record the percent cover of this species in each zone: 0-10 metres, 10-20 metres, 20+ metres. Percent cover is what percent of the host tree surface area that species covers within the zone you are assessing: <5%, 5-25%;25-50%; 50-75%; >75. Only applicable to vines where they touch the host tree.
<b>Step 3</b>	Record the location that the species predominantly occurs in: Trunk, Inner Branch, Mid Branch or Outer Branch
<b>Step 4</b>	Record any notes in the last column or bottom row
What to do with vines and lianes	Record vines in only in the zone(s) in which they make contact with the host tree. Make notes of the size of the plant and its abundance in the general area. If in doubt, describe it in the notes section.
What to do with unknown species	Use the basic ID guide. If ID is still not possible, take the best possible photos of the plant(s) and email to: epiphytes@waikato.ac.nz for ID. Record the photo file number on the survey sheet instead of a species name.

