

On Safari - A visit to your plant species in the wild

Things to take

- Strong shoes
- Water
- A hat and sunscreen or a raincoat
- A camera
- A plastic clip-lock bag
- Pen and pad
- Tape measure
- GPS



Things to do.

- Photograph your plant, the leaf, the seed, the flower and the fruit
- Photograph the plants around your species – is there one or two that are always found near your plant?
- Take a soil sample near your plant.
- Collect some seed from under the plant.
- If you are allowed collect some seed from the plant (check with your teacher)
- Make detailed descriptions of the plant, really study and draw the shape of the leaves, how they attach to the stem what texture/colour are the leaves, stem, fruits.

Things to observe

- Where is your plant growing
 - Top of a hill
 - In a gully
 - Near a creek
 - On the flat
 - On a hill, does the hill face the sun?
 - In the sun or shade
- Are there any insect visitors to your plant?
- If so what are they?
- Are there seeds under the plant? Are they from the plant?
- Is there animal scats near the plant? Do they have seeds in the scat?
- What is the soil like sandy, rocky, mushy, clayie.
- Is the soil moist or dry (compare this to the recent weather to decide if it like lots of water)
- Is it like most of the plants around it, colour, leaf size, height, density of foliage
- Describe the flowers, the colour, number and arrangement of petals, stamens and pistils - and sepals or bracts.

Things to record

- How big is the species (tall, wide)
- How many plants are there in total?
- How many plants in a square metre?
- How many flowers or seeds on the plant.
- Time and date of your visit.
- Make a record of the gps point, and elevation, then plot it onto google earth to get a wide angle view of the terrain.

Hypothesis to make

- What conditions does this plant like?
- What might help to pollinate the flowers?
- What are its companions?
- What would be the sequence of development, when does pollination occur.

Research

- What is the difference between buds, flowers fruits and seeds.
- Your insect photos and then find out what they are.
- Find out what your companion plant photos are.