

Dendrometer

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Radius Dendrometer (Type DR3)

For measuring changes in radius of plant stems



User Manual

Version 2.0

1. Introduction

Thank you for purchasing an Ecomatik Dendrometer type DR3. This is a highly precise sensor for continuous measurements of radius changes of trees under both indoor and outdoor conditions.

This manual is written to help you install and operate your DR3 dendrometer with least difficulty and for desirable results. Please read it carefully before installing the sensor, and refer to it if you should have any difficulty with the sensor in the future.

The dendrometer is the sensor part of a measuring system. This means that the dendrometer should be connected to a data logger for continuous data recording. The dendrometer is compatible with the most data logger types. At Ecomatik a low-cost, special for dendrometers developed DL18 logger is available.

2. Product Description

As shown below, the radius dendrometer consists of:

1 Sensor with 5 m cable. The cable length is extendable to 100 m

1 Special screw for fixing the frame onto the plant stem

Please contact us should you miss anything of these items.



Radius Dendrometer

The standard cable length is 5 m. if you ordered cable extension, the cable length is the ordered extension + 5 m.

To meet the requirements of different loggers, there are 2 different types of cables: **cable with plug** and **cable without plug**. Cable with plug can only be connected to Dendrometer Logger DL18. Cable without plug can be connected to other loggers.

3. Safety Information

The sensor is protected from rain water, but it is not waterproof. Please do not immerse the sensor in water. Avoid any tension between the cable and sensor during handling and operation. Pay attention to connections to data logger. Wrong connections will provide wrong readings.

4. Installation

4.1 Cable Extension

The standard version is delivered with 5 m cable. It can be extended up to 100 m. Cable type 4x0.25 mm² with shield is recommended for extensions.

4.2 Tools for installation

Required:

- cordless drill with 4 mm drill bit
- spanner (10 mm) or adjustable spanner
- cord to pull relieve the sensor cable

Optional:

tree resin, cable straps,

4.3 Mounting

- 1) Remove loose dead bark from the region/section on which the sensor is to be installed. Ensure no injury/damage to the living tissues below the dead bark.
- 2) Drill one hole ($\phi=4$ mm, 3 cm deep) in 30 mm distance above, or 90° besides from the desired measuring position.
- 3) Screw the special screw 3 cm into the drilled hole by using the hexagon cap nut. Optionally you may dip the screw top into the tree resin before screwing them into the trunk.
- 4) Screw the wingnut towards the cap nut, to open the fastening clamp and place the sensor mounting hook between the two washers. Position the stem sided hexagon nut such, that in fixed position the sensor head seats solidly on the stem surface and the rod of the sensor is pushed in by about 2-3 mm.

Note:

When the installation is taking place shortly before frost period, the sensor rod should be pushed in by 5 mm. At frosts the stem diameter can shrink considerably.

- 5) Having found the desired sensor position, lock the sensor mounting hook by firmly screwing the wing nut down against the sensor hook.
- 6) Fix the cable onto the tree stem/branch so that the sensor is protected from any accidental pull/ drag of the entire cable length. This can be done using a rope or cable straps. In addition, there should be no tension between the sensor and cable.

Ensure that no rain water can run along the cable into the sensor casing.

5. Wiring and Logger Configuration

The dendrometer is compatible with most data loggers. In the following we describe the connection with Dendrometer Logger (DL18), Campbell Logger (CR1000). Please contact us if your logger is not described here.

Dendrometer Data Logger (DL18)

The DL18 is a battery powered, waterproof logger for connecting 4 dendrometers. It is a very effective data logger for dendrometer measurement under outdoor conditions. For details please see the user manual of the DL18.

Campbell Data Logger (CR1000)

The dendrometer can be measured both in single-ended voltage as well as differential voltage mode. Differential voltage mode provides better accuracy. But single-ended mode requires half as many channels as differential mode. One CR1000 can include 16 dendrometers in single-ended mode, but only 8 dendrometers in differential mode.

Single-ended Voltage Mode (2 dendrometers)

Connection		
	Cable Color	Input Port
1 st dendrometer	Yellow	1H
	Green	Ground
	Brown	Vx1
	White	Ground
2 nd dendrometer	Yellow	1L
	Green	Ground
	Brown	Vx1
	White	Ground
Program Syntax <i>ExciteV (Vx1,2500,0)</i> <i>VoltSe(SEVolt(),2,mV2500,1,True,0,_50Hz,Mult(),Offs())</i> If Multiplier=4.4, Offset=0, the results are measured in microns.		

Differential Voltage Mode (2 dendrometers)

Connection		
	Cable Color	Input Port
1 st dendrometer	Yellow	1H
	Green	1L
	Brown	Vx1
	White	Ground
2 nd dendrometer	Yellow	2H
	Green	2L
	Brown	Vx1
	White	Ground
Program Syntax <i>ExciteV (Vx1,2500,0)</i> <i>VoltDiff(DiffVolt(),2,mV2500,1,True,0,_50Hz,Mult(),Offs())</i> If Multiplier=4.4, Offset=0, the results are measured in microns.		

An interval 0.5-hour for data collection can reveal the diurnal course of diameter changes very well.

6. Adjustment and maintenance

Ensure that no falling branches, fruits or snow land on the sensor. The sensor is protected against water droplets but is not waterproof.

When the sensor is correctly installed, it will function under outdoor conditions without the need for further maintenance.

Depending on the growth rate of the tree, the sensor should be reset after some months or years of measurements. When the output approaches 11 mm, the sensor needs to be reset.

Relax the screw slowly so that the sensor rod is pushed in by about 2-3 mm. When the reset is taking place shortly before frost period, the sensor rod should be pushed in by 5 mm. At frosts the stem diameter can shrink considerably.

7. Technical Specification

Name of the Sensor	Radius dendrometer Type DR3
Use area	For measuring radius growth of trees
Suitable for plant size	Diameter > 5 cm
Range of the sensor	11 mm
Resolution	The resolution of the sensor itself is infinite. The resolution of readings is determined by connected data logger, e.g. CR1000: 1.5 μm Dendrometer logger DL18: 0.2 μm
Accuracy	Dendrometer dependent: Max. $\pm 4.5\%$ of reading (stable offset) Dependent on the connected data logger, e.g.: CR1000: $\pm(0.04\%$ of reading + $4.4\mu\text{m}$) Dendrometer logger DL18: $\pm 0.1\%$
Temperature coefficient of the sensor	$< 0.2 \mu\text{m} / ^\circ\text{C}$ in the whole range
Linearity	$< 1\%$
Environment	Outdoor condition: -25 to 70°C air temperature, 0 to 100% relative air humidity
Weight of the sensor	13 g without cable
Power supply	Stabilized Vex 0.5 – 10 VDC, power consumption practically zero
Material	Stainless steel and Aluminium
Cable length	5 m, extendable up to 100 m