

Point Dendrometer **ZN12-T-2IP**

The **ZN12-T-2IP** consists of two sealed electronic displacement transducers on a carbon fibre (CFK) frame. Mounting elements are of stainless steel (rods and nuts). The dendrometer is designed to be applied under very wet conditions and enables to measure stem radius changes over bark and on xylem in parallel.

Size of carbon fibre frame: 190 x 92 x 8 mm

Weight (without thread rods): < 200 g

Frame: T-shaped carbon fibre frame, 3 stainless steel thread rods, 6 screw nuts, 6 washers, and 3 cap nuts.

Displacement transducer: Two sealed potentiometer (IP54) for measuring in a μm resolution. Hub of the moving rod is 2 cm. Weather-proof plug on sensor.

Power supply: 5V DC.

Output: 0-5V DC, single ended measurement.

Voltage-Sensitivity: 1 mV = 4.0 μm



What is detected?

Diurnal stem radius fluctuations are mainly influenced by changes of the thickness of living tissues of the bark (mainly phloem cells). The thickness changes depend on the hydration status of the bark. While water is withdrawn from the bark through transpiration during the daytime, at night the tissue is replenished. As a result of this cycle, the diameter decreases during the day and increases at night. Over a period of weeks and months, this diurnal rhythm is altered by growth. New layers of xylem cells irreversibly increase the radius, particularly during wet periods in the growing season. An additional but smaller contribution comes from tensions within the wood and the growth and death of the phloem cells. In winter, ice formations in the wood induce strong decreases of the stem radius.

Advantages in comparison to other products

- No disturbances by deformations of the dead outermost layer of the bark, induced by temperature and air-humidity (a general argument in favour of point dendrometers and against band dendrometers).

- Materials and electronic parts insensitive to temperature allow for more accurate measurements.
- The spot of measurement is not influenced by the thread rods because it is neither in the vertical nor in the horizontal line of the anchor points.
- The application to different stem expositions allows a spatial resolution of stem radius fluctuations.
- Compatibility to most logging systems and easy to power with a stable 5V DC supply.
- Easy to mount.
- Minor disturbance of the tree stem.
- Very robust and weather-proof materials, sealed electronic displacement transducer, weather-proof plug.
- Constructed, produced and tested by experts in tree physiology. Swiss Made.

Mounting principle

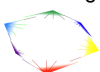
The electronic parts of the dendrometer are mounted on a carbon fibre frame which is fixed to the stem by three stainless steel thread rods implanted into the inactive heartwood. A sensing rod is pressed slightly against the tree stem by a spring. The combination of weatherproof materials and a solid anchorage in the stem make it possible to precisely detect changes in the stem radius with a resolution of less than $1\mu\text{m}$.

Mounting instruction

1. Hold the dendrometer against the stem and mark the three spots to drill. Use the outermost rod holes in the carbon frame whenever possible. Ensure that the sensing rod is pointing towards the centre of the stem.
2. Drill holes approximately 5-8 cm into the stem (drill diameter 4 mm). Ensure that the direction of the drill holes is kept horizontal.
3. Put the cap nuts on the thread rods and screw the thread rods into the drill holes previously prepared.
4. Clear the spot on the bark on which the sensor head is placed from rough, dead parts of bark. Use a knife, a chisel or sandpaper but never cut into the living part of the bark.
5. Remove the cap nuts and mount a screw nut followed by a washer on each thread rod.
6. Mount the dendrometer on the thread rods and adjust the distance to the stem with the screw nuts.
7. Fix the dendrometer with a second washer and a screw nut.
8. After mounting the dendrometer, press the sensing rod back into its housing and let it slip back onto the tree surface. This procedure makes sure that the sensing rod gets not jammed.
9. Connect the **brown** wire to a stabilised +5V DC power supply, the **yellow** wire to GND, and the **white** wire to the data logger.

Maintenance

Put a droplet of WD-40 on the moveable sensor rod twice a year.



References *stem radius fluctuations ...*

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... about other dendrometer types and related methods

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