Plant photographs and captions for identification Matt Walters, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. matt.walters@canterbury.ac.nz





Habit

Branch





Slash

Stem





Leaf, upper surface

Leaf, lower surface



Leaves



Leaflets



Leaf attachment



Stipule



Leaf bud



Leaf surface detail



Flower bud



Flower (photograph front and back)



Inflorescence



Fruits



Fruit, cross-section



Seeds

Notes to take when photographing a plant

General information

- Date photo taken
- Name of photographer
- File name of the photo

Location information

- Location description. Begin with the country and then become more specific. For example: NIGERIA: Taraba: Sardauna Province: Mambilla Plateau, Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve, forest fragment B.
- GPS location (can be of the general area rather than for each plant)
- Altitude

Plant information

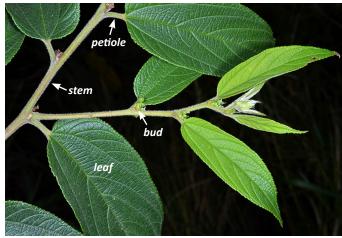
 Caption: Use the captions below the photos in this guide (eg, Leaf, upper surface). If it is a labelled plant include the tree tag number or other identifier if it is a tree on a transect. Use a code if there are multiple photos of one plant. The format we use is:

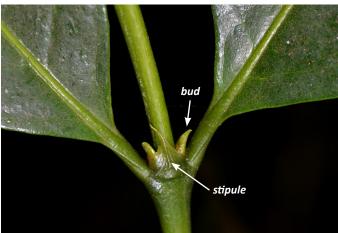
Plant XYZ-00095. Leaf upper surface, where XYZ are the photographer initials.

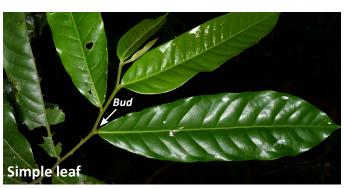
- Possible identification
- If a herbarium specimen is collected write down the collection number.
- Does the slash or flowers smell?
- Leaf length. This is good for determining size

Photography information

- Ensure the image is in focus.
- Use flash when in the forest.
- Take as many different photos of the plant parts as possible.
- When photographing a leaf make sure that both ends of the leaf are in the photo.
- Photograph any features of the plant that might make it easier to identify later, for example glands in the leaves, spines, hairs.









A leaf has a bud at the base of the petiole where it attaches to the stem. A compound leaf has leaflets, the leaflets have no bud at their base.

