SUMMARY OF PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

The plant characteristics listed below should be used as a guide or check list at the time of studying each plant specimen during the field trip.

A. Plant Habit
1. **Tree** — a perennial woody plant with a single trunk.
2. **Shrub** — a perennial woody plant with several stems arising near the ground.
3. **Herb** — a non-woody plant having soft tissues.

B. Plant Size
1. **Height** — indication of the tallness of a plant in inches or feet.
2. **Stem diameter** — indication of the diameter of the main stem in inches or feet.

C. Bark
1. **Color** — indication of bark color such as: brown or brownish-black.
2. **Texture** — indication of the structure of bark such as: deeply furrowed, scaly or warty.

D. Leaf Form
1. **Simple** — leaf with a single blade, not divided into leaflets.
2. **Pinnately compound** — leaflets arranged on either side of a main axis.
3. **Palmately compound** — all leaflets attached at the end of the petiole.

E. Leaf or Bud Arrangement
1. **Alternate** — one leaf or bud at a node.
2. **Opposite** — two leaves or buds at a node.
3. **Whorled** — three or more leaves or buds at a node.

F. Leaf Venation
1. **Parallel** — principal veins parallel with each other.
2. **Pinnately net** — secondary veins branch in a parallel manner from the midrib.
3. **Palmately net** — main veins branch out from the upper end of the petiole like the fingers of a hand.

G. Leaf Margin
1. **Entire** — a smooth or uninterrupted leaf margin.
2. **Toothed** — leaf with small indentations in the margin.
3. **Lobed** — leaf with large indentations in the margin.

H. Bud Position
1. **Terminal** — bud at the end of a stem.
2. **Axillary** — bud in the axil of a leaf.
3. **Adventitious** — any bud other than a terminal or axillary bud.

I. Bud Content
1. **Leaf** — a bud which produces only leaves.
2. **Flower** — a bud which produces only flowers.
3. **Mixed** — a bud which produces both leaves and flowers.

J. Special Characteristics
1. **Thorn** — a strong and sharp woody structure arising from the stem.
2. **Lenticel** — a pore occurring in the cork layer of a stem through which exchange of gases occurs.
3. **Bud scales** — specialized protective leaves of a bud.
4. **Terminal-bud-scale-scars** — ring of scars remaining after the terminal bud scales fall off.
5. **Leaf scar** — scar left when a leaf falls from the stem.
6. **Vascular bundle scars** — scars left by the vascular bundles of the petiole.
7. **Stipule** — a basal appendage of the petiole.
8. **Fruit type** — fleshy, dry, dehiscent, indehiscent, etc.