

# **SC-1 Porometer Calibration Quick Start Guide**

For more information on calibration, see the video at www.decagon.com/porocal or the SC-1 User's Manual

### When should I calibrate my Leaf Porometer?

- Every day
- If environmental conditions change more than 15° C.

## **Precautions:**

- DO NOT get water on the leaf porometer clip. If you do, be sure to dry thoroughly before calibrating or making a measurement.
- AVOID leaves that are wet or heavy with dew.
- NEVER breathe or blow on the sensor.
- ONLY use desiccant for the most stable readings.

## **Before Starting:**

- 1. You must calibrate the porometer under field conditions.
- 2. The sensor head, calibration block and DI water must be in thermal equilibrium with the environment. This may take 10 minutes or more if the sensor head starts at a very different temperature (e.g. air conditioned vehicle or office).
- 3. Assemble a complete calibration kit:
  - Calibration plate
  - Filter paper
  - Distilled water
  - Tweezers
  - White agitation beads

# **Calibrating the Sensor:**

- 1. Use the "Menu" button to select the Configuration menu
  - Select the Calibration submenu and then Calibrate.

# 2. Enter sensor serial number found on cable tag

# 3. Leave the sensor head closed and wave in air to mix air in sensor head with the white agitation bead inside.

# 4. Wetting the filter paper

Wetting the filter paper correctly is critical to a good calibration. The filter paper must be wet, but have no excess water.

- Saturate filter paper with one drop of DI water from dropper bottle.
- Using tweezers, give the filter paper several sharp flicks of the wrist to knock off any excess water.
- Once you have wet the filter paper, DO NOT re-wet during the calibration process.
- If the filter paper dries and falls off the calibration plate, re-wet and re-start the calibration at the beginning.
- See user manual and online video at www.decagon.com/porocal for more detailed information on wetting the filter paper correctly.



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- 5. Lay the filter paper over the hole in the calibration plate on the side marked "Filter Paper"
  - The filter paper must lay flat across the hole.
- The filter paper must cover the entire hole.
- Check to make sure that no water wicks into the hole from the filter paper.

#### 6. Attach sensor head

- Moist filter must be in place and flat.
- Orient calibration plate with "Metal Block" toward the aluminum side of leaf clip.
- Calibration plate must be inserted until aluminum block seats firmly against the hard stop.
- Once a reading starts, the sensor head must be oriented such that the desiccant cap is facing downwards so the bead is out of the diffusion path.

### 7. Calibration measurements

- Follow instructions in #6 above to attach sensor head.
- 30 second measurement will start.
- Hold the sensor head still or set it down during the 30 second measurements.
- When the measurement is finished, you will need to equilibrate (#8 below) and re-attach sensor head (#6 above) to start another calibration measurement.
- You will need to repeat the calibration measurement up to 10 times until stable measurements are achieved.
- The Leaf Porometer will alert you when the calibration is complete.
- If the you take 10 calibration measurements and don't achieve stable readings, see Calibration chapter in user manual for troubleshooting tips.

### 8. Equilibrate

- Sensors must be equilibrated.
- Leave the sensor head closed and wave in air to mix air in sensor head with the white bead inside.
- When the indicator bar reaches "EQB", you will be prompted to attach the sensor head and begin a calibration measurement.

### 9. Accuracy Verification

It is always a good idea to verify that the calibration was effective. If you wish to do this, go to the measurement menu and make a measurement on the calibration plate. The verification should be conducted immediately after the calibration has finished, and without re-wetting the filter paper. The measured conductance should be close to  $240 \text{ mmol/m}^2 \text{ s.}$ 

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