B48 *FOXTAILING* IN *PINUS CARIBAEA* VAR. *HONDURENSIS* PLANTATIONS IN THE WET ZONE OF SRI LANKA

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Two ten-year old plantations of *Pinus caribaea* Var. *hondurensis*, in the wet zone of Sri Lanka, were studied for tree form. Hundred trees were felled and many growth and form parameters were recorded.

Twenty five percent of the trees exhibited "foxtailling" and abnormality expressing complete apical dominance. Foxtailed-trees were (a) shorter in total height and merchantable height and, (b) smaller in diameter at breast height than the normally branched trees. They did not form crowns and also, did not appear to reproduce. The differences between foxtails and normally-branched trees in bark thickness, taper, diameter:height ratio and, taper:height ratio were not significant.

One plantation had a significantly lesser extent and degree of foxtailing than the other. Also recognized were three different types of foxtailing with respect to the commencement and cessation of abnormal branching.

We conclude that: (1) Fox tailing is significant in Honduras pine plantations of Sri Lanka and these trees are silviculturally inferior to normally-branched trees. (2) Expression of foxtailing appears to be controlled by a strong genetic x environment (in time and space ) interaction.