

**D-34 : GROWTH RING FORMATION AND WITHIN TREE VARIATION
OF SOME WOOD PROPERTIES IN *Pinus caribaea***

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Internode formation, ring formation, ring width and specific gravity were studied in eleven year old *Pinus caribaea* trees grown in Rakwana area (Wet Zone). Internodes and growth rings were identified visually and measurements for wood properties (ring width and specific gravity) were taken from these internodal and ring sampling positions.

The variation of ring width was analysed in the way described by Duff and Nolan (1953) using three types of sequences (graphs). Ring width increased from the apex down for a few internodes and thereafter it decreased. In radial direction it

decreased gradually from the pith outwards. Specific gravity increased from the pith outwards and it showed a negative correlation with ring width.

There was some evidence to suggest that seasonal variation in rainfall was related to internodal formation. Two to seven internodes were formed each year and one ring had been added each year. However, a larger sample from even-aged trees is needed before a conclusive statement can be made.

It is suggested that rather than adopting sampling positions based on percentage height and percentage distance from the pith,

internodal and ring sampling procedure should be adopted in future research because it is more meaningful for collecting information on wood properties along space-time sequences in tree growth.