AGE-RELATED TREND OF BASIC DENSITY IN EUCALYPTUS CLONES

Alex Julio Trinca (PQ), Rafael Gustavo Mansini Lorensani (PG), Cilene da Silva Alves (IC).

Abstract
Density is a very important property related to wood utilizations and, for the pulp and paper sector, follow the increase along the time is critical for knowing yield. So, find tools that allowed predict more easily, fast and cheaper, directly in trees and in early ages is a nowadays challenge. The objective of this research was to verify the age-related trend of basic density, obtained using increment borer, and of drilling amplitude (DA), because the DA has been considered as a tool that can be well correlated with basic density. The results showed that both, Basic Density (BD) and Drilling Amplitude (DA) increase with age, but in early ages DA do not have the same behavior of the DB.

Key words: Increment borer, drilling amplitude, early ages of trees.

Introduction

Density is a very important property related to wood applications. To the paper and pulp sector, this property is very important, because is related to the yield. Follow the density of the wood is an expensive and slow process, because it is necessary to cut trees and remove discs for laboratory analysis. The increment borer is a tool very used by foresters to determine the density directly in trees, but there are controversies regarding the results. The drilling resistance (Resistograph) are also being studied as an alternative to predict the density of trees1,2. The objective of this research was to evaluate, using two different clones, the age-related trends of drilling amplitude, relating the results with the density of the seedling, and of the trees obtained using the increment borer. For the tests, we used 71 seedlings and 360 trees (30 per age for each clone).

Results and Discussion

The basic density of the seedlings and of the trees (obtained using increment borer) presented the same age-related behavior for both clones (Figure 1).

Conclusions
Both, Basic Density (BD) and Drilling Amplitude (DA) increase with age, but in early ages DA do not have the same behavior of the density.

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