NEXT: G - 2 "Wood Kits"

Classifying Wood Samples from Different Types of Trees

(pp 124-125

(Your personal version in Class Notes Packet)

Take notes for yourself in Class Notes, answer for your Group Grade on the G-2 Form


WOOD SAMPLES: Some are useful for dendrochronology, some aren't . . . The thing that determines their usefulness is whether or not the wood can be crossdated!!!!

The characteristics that make a tree suitable for crossdating are:

- the tree has a **ring growth structure** (not all trees have rings!)

- the tree-ring **boundaries are distinct**

- the tree rings are **annual**, i.e., one ring is formed each calendar year *(hard to tell just by looking!)*

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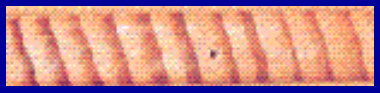
. . . characteristics that make a tree suitable for crossdating are: (cont.)

- the tree growth pattern is **sensitive** not **complacent** as in



. . . . so that variations from year-to-year ("interannual variations") show enough variations with distinct patterns that can be matched from core to core and tree to tree.

. . . characteristics that make a tree suitable for crossdating are: (cont.)

- the tree growth pattern has **"circuit uniformity"**

  i.e. the rings are continuous around the entire circumference of the tree

  (so that the same ring pattern will appear if you core different sides of the tree.)

- the **length of tree-ring record is long enough** so that a valid pattern match can be made

  (in general, a tree-ring record of 50 continuous rings or more is needed)

Goal of Assignment G-2:

To classify the wood samples in your wood kit into three categories -- those trees that are:

(1) **Suitable**,
(2) **Unsuitable**, or
(3) **Possibly Suitable**

for crossdating and subsequent dendrochronological analysis.

- **Sign your name** on the GROUP ANSWER FORM at the top and pick a group leader!
- **Two groups will share ONE specimen box,** so pass them back and forth – your Teaching Team will assist.
- **Every team member should examine one or more specimens.**
- Do Parts A, B & C **together as a group.**