

Research Article

Growth and Survival Variation among Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) Provenances

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Tree height, basal diameter, and survival were examined in thirteen-year-old provenance test established by 30 seed sources of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) at two exotic sites of the species in Southern part of Turkey. Variations within provenance and among provenances and relations among the traits were estimated to compare Scots pine provenance and two other native species. Averages of tree height and basal diameter were 350 cm and 52.7 mm in Aydogmus site and 385 cm and 51.2 mm in Kemer site, respectively. There were large differences within and among provenances for the characters. Sites were similar ($p > 0.05$) for the characters, while there were significant differences ($p \leq 0.05$) among provenances within site according to results of variance analysis (ANOVA). Scots pine provenances were higher and had more thickness than that of black pine (*Pinus nigra* Arnold) and Taurus cedar (*Cedrus libani* A. Rich.) which were natural species of the region. There were positive and significant ($p < 0.05$) correlations between height and basal diameter in the species. Average survivals were 56% and 35% of the provenances in the sites. They were 71% and 11% in black pine and 53% in Taurus cedar for the sites respectively.

1. Introduction

Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) is classified as one of the economically important tree species for Turkish forestry in the “National Tree Breeding and Seed Production Programme” [1]. The species grows between 0 and 2700 meters above sea level in Turkey. Pure and mixed stands of the species occupy roughly 750 000 ha in Turkey, of which roughly 475 000 ha are considered to be productive forests (Figure 1).

Scots pine is one of the valuable commercial forest tree species in Europe and Asia. Besides, it is interesting as an introduced exotic species in Korea, China, Mexico, and New Zealand, where provenance and cultivation trials have been established [2]. Within its wide natural and artificial range in the Euroasiatic continent the species shows large variability of its adaptation and growth features [3]. Provenance trials with forest trees provide valuable information about growth and adaptability of populations often transferred over large geographical and climatic distances [3]. Estimation of provenance variation is also one of the main stages of tree breeding programme, to establish successful plantations and to determine seed transfer regions. Provenance tests with Scots pine date back to as early as the 19th century.

Few of those tests would meet the present-day statistical standards required for field experimentation, but frequently the progeny of one stand (provenance) was planted at several experimental sites. Most of those early experiments were limited to the scale of national tests [3]. While many national and international studies were conducted on provenance test for different purposes in the species in many countries (e.g., [4–11]) or different forest tree species (e.g., [12–15]), the present study is one of the first investigations in Southern Turkey which is exotic for the species.

The purposes of this study were to estimate variations of tree height and basal diameter within provenance and among provenances, to compare Scots pine to native black pine (*Pinus nigra*) and Taurus cedar (*Cedrus libani*) species of the sites, and to evaluate relations between height and diameter in the species to estimate better provenance/s for the region.

2. Materials and Methods

This study was carried out in two experimental areas (latitude 38°36'N, longitude 30°24'E, and altitude 1100 m asl. called

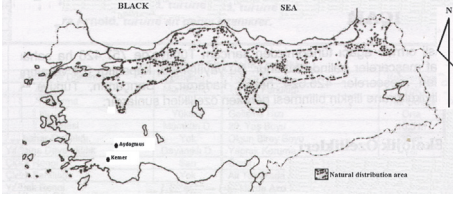


FIGURE 1: Natural distribution area of Scots pine in Turkey, and experimental sites.

Aydogmus site; latitude $37^{\circ}35'N$, longitude $30^{\circ}06'E$, and altitude 1180 m asl. called Kemer site in the paper) in Southern Turkey, established by 30 Scotch pine provenances and native Taurus cedar and Anatolian black pine provenances for comparison (Table 1).

The experiments were established as “Randomized Blocks” with three blocks and 2.5×2 m spacing in year 2000. Each provenance was represented by thirty-two-year-old containerized seedlings in each replication/block. Data of survival, tree height (H , cm), and basal diameter (D_0 , mm), also called base diameter at soil surface, were collected at thirteen-year-old provenance test in October of 2013. Tree height and basal diameter were measured by Hagl f-Vertex hypsometer and electronic caliper, respectively.

The statistical analysis was carried out by SPSS statistical package according to the following model of ANOVA used for the analysis:

$$Y_{ijkm} = \mu + S_i + B_{j(i)} + P_k + SP_{ik} + BP_{j(i)k} + e_{ijkm}, \quad (1)$$

where Y_{ijk} is the observation from the m th tree of k th provenance at j th block of i th site, μ is overall mean, S_i is the effect of the i th site, $B_{j(i)}$ is the effect of j th block at i th site, P_k is effect of k th provenance, SP_{ik} is the interaction between k th provenance and i th site, $BP_{j(i)k}$ is interaction between k th provenance and j th block at i th site, and e_{ijkm} is random error. Provenances were grouped by Duncan’s multiple range test. Individual phenotypic correlations among traits were also calculated.

Correlation between tree height and basal diameter was also calculated by Pearson’s correlation using SPSS statistical package program [16].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Traits. Survival rate, averages, and ranges of the tree height and basal diameter for provenances and sites were given in Table 2.

Survival was one of the most important criterions in economical and biological success of plantation forestry. It was gaining importance based on climate change by provenance test. It was emphasized that provenance trials series with many test localities covering a large variation of climatic conditions were ideal for estimates of the consequences of changes of temperature climate [9]. Survival rates were changed for species, sites, and provenances (Table 2). They were 56% (varied between 31% and 76%) and 35% (18% and 53%) in experimental sites. While the survival was lowest

TABLE 1: Geographic details of the provenances.

Provenance number	Country	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Altitude (m)
1	Turkey	$40^{\circ}53'$	3220	1550
2	Turkey	$40^{\circ}38'$	4228	2050
3 (GR)*	Greece	$41^{\circ}17'$	Unknown	1600
4	Turkey	$41^{\circ}10'$	3505	1200
5	Turkey	$40^{\circ}31'$	3208	1550
6**	Turkey	$39^{\circ}58'$	3107	1550
7**	Turkey	$40^{\circ}32'$	3209	1575
8	Turkey	$41^{\circ}22'$	3320	1250
9	Turkey	$40^{\circ}15'$	4240	2300
10**	Turkey	$39^{\circ}41'$	3550	910
11**	Turkey	$39^{\circ}51'$	3106	1320
12	Turkey	$38^{\circ}54'$	3110	1675
13	Turkey	$39^{\circ}34'$	3552	1750
14	Turkey	$40^{\circ}45'$	4233	2250
15	Turkey	$41^{\circ}34'$	3122	1300
16	Turkey	$40^{\circ}23'$	3755	1950
17	Turkey	$40^{\circ}37'$	3139	1350
18	Turkey	$41^{\circ}01'$	3421	1600
19	Turkey	$39^{\circ}58'$	3109	1550
20	Turkey	$41^{\circ}10'$	3503	1300
21	Turkey	$40^{\circ}22'$	3752	1650
22	Turkey	$41^{\circ}02'$	3337	1500
23	Turkey	$39^{\circ}34'$	3260	1800
24 (GR)	Greece	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
25	Turkey	$40^{\circ}18'$	4237	2350
26	Turkey	$40^{\circ}26'$	4235	2250
27	Turkey	$40^{\circ}37'$	3050	1450
28**	Turkey	$39^{\circ}45'$	3110	1350
29 (FR)	France	$45^{\circ}18'$	Unknown	860
30**	Turkey	$39^{\circ}54'$	4118	1570
<i>P. nigra</i>	Turkey	$37^{\circ}29'$	3043	1000
<i>C. libani</i>	Turkey	$37^{\circ}44'$	3052	1567

*GR: Greece; FR: France. **Seed orchards.

(53%) for Taurus cedar in first site, it was the highest (53%) for the species in second site. There was no any higher survival provenance of Scots pine than Taurus cedar in second site (Table 2 and Figure 2). *Pinus sylvestris* provenances showed better survival performance than that of *P. contorta* in Sweden [10]. Average survival was reported to be 44.5% with overall Scots pine provenance trials ranging from 5 to 17 years in Poland [17]. It was 41.5% in 30th year results of provenance trials in the species [3]. Large differences among provenances for survival were also reported in provenance trials of Scots pine in different countries [3, 11, 18, 19]. Significant relationship between survival and population/origin was found in provenance trials of Scots pine [20]. It was known that there could be many environmental and genetic effects on survival. The results showed importance of provenance trials

TABLE 2: Survival (%), averages, and ranges of tree height (*H*) and basal diameter (*D*₀) of the provenances in the sites.

Provenance number	Survival	Aydognus site			Kemer site		
		<i>H</i>	<i>D</i> ₀	Survival	<i>H</i>	<i>D</i> ₀	
		Average	Range		Average	Range	Range
1	52	302	144–555		435	115–630	14.2–74.3
2	39	310	129–599		388	72–706	13.2–68.6
3*	37	342	97–514		350	133–673	22.1–85.8
4	52	334	121–540		323	119–537	20.0–70.0
5	31	234	84–399		304	145–427	29.4–78.4
6*	49	301	112–498		420	206–650	32.8–90.7
7*	47	309	118–623		457	194–860	18.9–91.0
8	56	328	139–535		412	170–656	29.7–90.5
9	34	299	81–527		286	167–458	22.8–59.3
10*	61	363	148–595		322	114–616	21.0–95.2
11*	49	314	124–550		495	189–731	31.0–99.2
12	58	319	157–493		435	203–741	32.6–97.9
13	49	305	130–494		367	144–668	26.4–88.8
14	51	313	153–525		400	156–601	23.0–74.8
15	64	394	167–699		415	68–731	28.0–91.0
16	54	370	168–533		313	108–606	71.4–23.8
17	56	305	83–505		400	210–687	30.2–80.6
18	63	362	156–582		298	70–440	18.2–67.6
19	66	352	172–518		418	190–578	22.0–69.5
20	76	480	180–792		505	150–851	31.5–120.0
21	61	332	151–506		385	193–590	25.2–74.4
22	64	402	165–606		334	87–543	26.6–70.0
23	69	363	184–580		314	152–477	31.1–81.0
24	50	364	160–655		450	84–746	18.0–100.5
25	57	344	158–545		382	140–603	30.9–69.0
26	64	345	114–639		336	130–508	24.5–69.4
27	74	419	151–714		393	201–614	36.7–108.8
28*	81	337	150–599		462	198–866	18.6–75.4
29	60	427	119–795		393	128–659	34.0–102.0
30*	60	325	94–508		309	110–519	18.4–63.3
Total	56	349.7	81–795		385	81–795	13.2–120.0
<i>P. nigra</i>	71	259	107–500		313	225–425	25.2–60.0
<i>C. libani</i>	53	266	129–482		270	76–549	12.0–62.4

*Seed orchards.

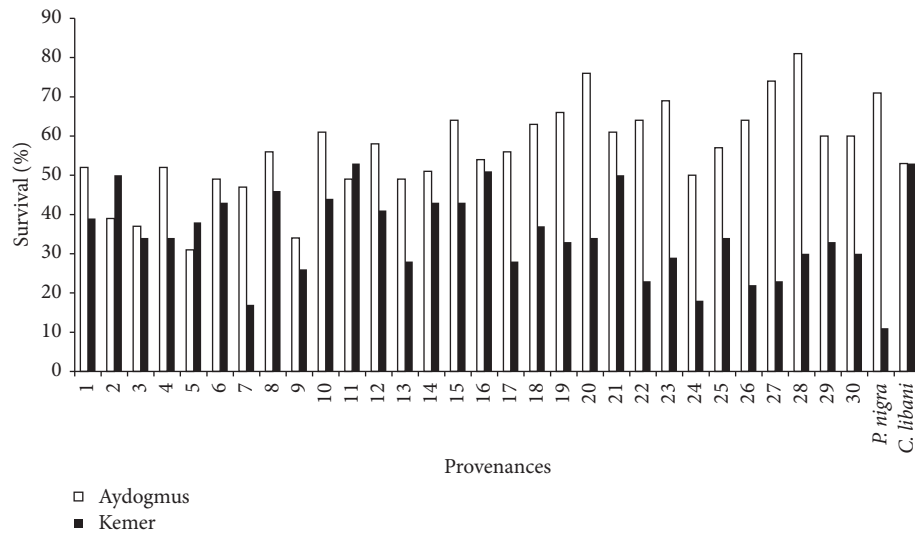


FIGURE 2: Survival of provenances for site.

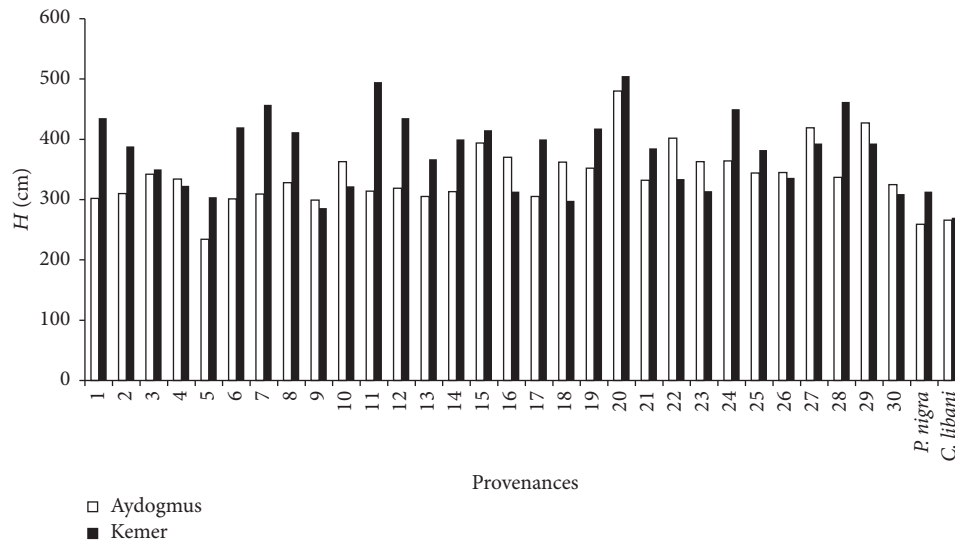


FIGURE 3: Tree height of provenances for site.

for selection of regional seed sources in plantation forestry. In German Scots pine provenance trial results of Taeger et al. [21] highlight the importance of genotype $\times$ environment interaction in response to extreme climatic events, which have to be considered in the interpretation of population adaptation to climate change. In Polish provenance trials, results of Barzdajn et al. [3] showed that the southern populations that moved so far north suffered too much of a climatic transfer. On the other hand, good survival of northern populations in a milder environment of our research site, as compared to their native climate, indicates that there was some potential within those populations to adapt to changes in climate corresponding to that transfer.

Averages of tree height and basal diameter were 350 cm and 385 cm and 52.7 mm and 51.2 mm in the sites, respectively (Table 2). As seen from Table 2, there were large differences

within provenance and among provenances for tree height and basal diameter. The result was well in accordance with the early results from the species [3, 11, 19, 22, 23]. These results indicated that there was a large variation among tested populations in growth at the examined test site and within species. However, while there were 15–20% differences for height and radial growth among provenances of Norway spruce, qualitative traits such as stem shape, branch density, and shape and health state were similar in the species [12] and had statistically significant difference ($0.05 > p$) among populations of black pine reported by Gülcü et al. [24] for growth characters. Scots pine provenances showed higher height and diameter performances than that of black pine and Taurus cedar which were natural forest tree species of the sites (Figures 3 and 4) opposite to primary results of the trial [25]. However, growth performances could change for the provenances in the future as also emphasized in Polish

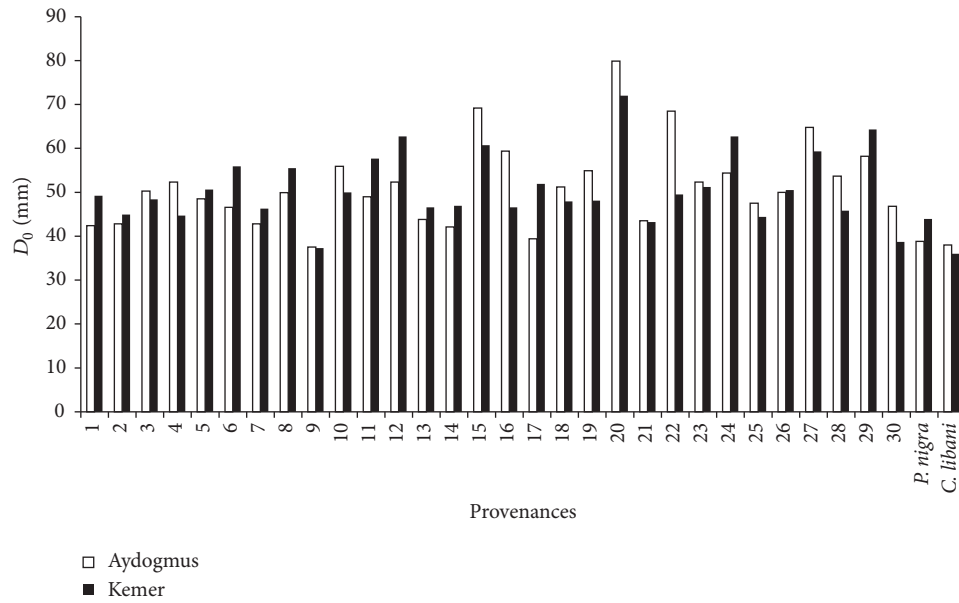


FIGURE 4: Basal diameter of provenances for site.

TABLE 3: Results of analysis of variance for the characters.

Source of variation*	H		D ₀	
	F value	p value**	F value	p value
S_i	56.070	$p > 0.05^{ns}$	0.007	$p > 0.05^{ns}$
B_j	16.877	$p > 0.05^{ns}$	59.829	$p > 0.05^{ns}$
P_k	8.454	$0.05 > p$	13.034	$0.05 > p$
SP_{ik}	7.637	$0.05 > p$	4.034	$0.05 > p$
$BP_{j(i)k}$	2.879	$0.05 > p$	2.928	$0.05 > p$

* S_i is the effect of the i th site, $B_{j(i)}$ is the effect of j th block at i th site, P_k is the effect of k th provenance, SP_{ik} is the interaction between k th provenance and i th site, and $BP_{j(i)k}$ is the interaction between k th provenance and j th block at i th site; ^{ns} difference is not statistically significant.

provenance trials of Scots pine by Barzdajn et al. [3] and other trials [25, 26].

Averages of tree height and basal diameter of seed stand provenances were generally higher than that of seed orchard provenances marked in Table 1. This was not an expected situation. However, seed orchards have been established with clones or seedlings, collected from plus trees selected phenotypically from natural seed stands. Besides, it could be said that provenances of the present study had higher height and diameter than early studies [4–6].

Sites were similar for tree height and basal diameter ($p > 0.05$), while there were significant differences ($p \leq 0.05$) among provenances according to results of analysis of variance (ANOVA) (Table 3) and Duncan's multiple range test (Table 4). However, site $\times$ provenance interaction was significant ($p < 0.05$). The result was well in accordance with the early results from provenance trials of the species [3, 19]. Ulbrichová et al. [12] reported that environmental variables were significantly effective on growth characters

in provenance test of Norway spruce. Significant site $\times$ provenance interaction was reported in a provenance test of *Eucalyptus robusta* [15]. The interaction result of the present study showed large variation for selection capacity and adaptation ability to different site of the species.

3.2. Correlations among the Traits. Positive and significant ($p \leq 0.05$) correlations were found between tree height and basal diameter in Scots pine ($r = 0.643$), in black pine ($r = 0.405$), and in Taurus cedar ($r = 0.634$). Positive and significant correlation was reported between height and growth traits in Scots pine populations [3, 5, 11] and between tree height and branch diameter in black pine populations [24] and also *Eucalyptus urophylla* provenances [14]. The relationship could be used in the future studies on the species.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, we reported significant variation in the growth traits and survival among 30 Scots pine provenances and two other native species based on thirteen-year-old provenance trials in Southern Turkey. The variation among provenances and within provenance emphasized importance of mass and individual selection and large adaptation ability of the species. There were positive and significant correlations between growth traits. The relationship could be used in forestry practices of the species such as pruning. The phenotypic selection based on growth traits should be combined by genotypic selection in the future studies.

Scots pine provenances were higher and had more thickness than that of black pine and Taurus cedar. It showed that the Scots pine could be used at low ratio (less than 10%) in mixed plantation at the region. Therefore, it was needed to collect more data to draw accurate suggestion for better provenance for the region.

TABLE 4: Homogenous groups of Duncan's multiple range tests.

<i>H</i>		<i>D</i> ₀	
Provenance number	Homogenous groups*	Provenance number	Homogenous groups
<i>P. nigra</i>	a	<i>C. libani</i>	a
<i>C. libani</i>	a	9	a
5	a	<i>P. nigra</i>	ab
9	ab	21	bc
30	bc	17	bcd
13	cd	7	bcd
4	cde	2	bcde
17	cdef	30	bcdef
18	cdef	14	bcdef
16	cdef	13	bcdef
26	cdefg	1	bcdef
3	cdefgh	25	bcdefgh
10	cdefgh	4	cdefh
7	cdefgh	3	cdefghi
23	cdefgh	5	cdefghi
14	cdefgh	18	cdefghi
2	cdefgh	26	defghi
21	cdefgh	6	cdefghi
6	cdefgh	28	fghi
25	cdefgh	16	hij
1	defgh	23	hij
8	defghi	8	ij
12	efghi	19	ij
28	fghi	10	ij
19	ghij	11	ij
22	ghijk	24	jk
24	hijk	12	jk
15	ijk	29	kl
11	jk	22	l
27	k	27	l
29	k	15	l
20	k	20	m

*The same letters are significantly different ($p > 0.05$). **Seed orchards.

Competing Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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