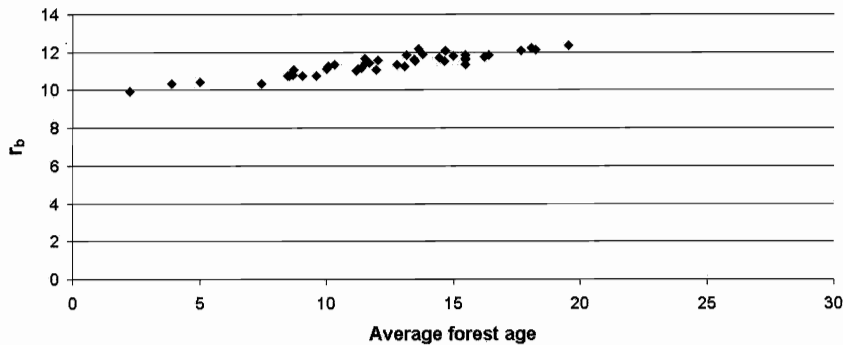


Fig. 5: Discount rate for before-tax cashflows that is equivalent to 9% for after-tax cashflows for forest-level examples



### Discussion

The results presented illustrate that there is no simple relationship between  $r_a$  and  $r_b$ . Although there is a clear general trend of increasing  $r_b$  (for a given  $r_a$ ) with age, the equivalent  $r_b$  is specific to the particular stand or forest being valued and varies with the discount rate, inflation rate and tax rate assumed.

As observed in the NZIF Forest Valuation Standards: "It is evident that there is no single and universal adjustment between the discount rates [ $r_b$  and  $r_a$ ] in the case of plantation forests in New Zealand. The relationship is affected by the impact of the cost-of-bush because of such factors as the maturity of the forest at the time of purchase and the assumed level of inflation.

Accordingly, it is preferable to model the effects of tax explicitly in order to produce after-tax NPVs"

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## letters

# Douglas fir or Douglas-fir?

Sir,

Throughout the world, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* is known by several common names, such as "Douglas fir", "Oregon pine", "Douglas-spruce", "false hemlock", "red-fir", "sapin de Douglas", "Pin d'Orégon", "Douglastanne", "Douglasie", and "Douglas-fir". Most dictionaries do not hyphenate "Douglas fir" and neither do most researchers in Europe, Africa, Asia or Australia. However, researchers, botanists, foresters and others in North America often hyphenate "Douglas-fir" to let readers know this tree is not a "true fir". Horticulturists in the U.S. started hyphenating Douglas-fir around 1923.

In 1979, Elbert Little, Jr. published U.S. Forest Service principles regarding hyphenation and word compounding of common U.S. tree names ([www.forestry.auburn.edu/south/appendix6.pdf](http://www.forestry.auburn.edu/south/appendix6.pdf)). However, these principles "do not apply to other countries or to international commerce". Therefore, non-hyphenated names like "Douglas fir" are permitted in lumber yards in the U.S. and New Zealand (Little 1979; p. 344).

Eight years ago, some researchers in New Zealand adopted the hyphen for Douglas-fir but not for other "misapplied" common names like "hoop-pine". Two

years later, in a letter on this topic (NZ Journal of Forestry, February 1996), one of us (WJL) indicated the Seventh International Botanical Congress at Stockholm passed international laws regarding the hyphenation of vernacular names. However, to date we have not been able to verify this claim, and now recognise that was incorrect information. Rules regarding common names were not published in the 1950 proceedings (Regnum Vegetabile Vol. 3, 228p.). We contacted several experts and, none said the International Botanical Congress addressed vernacular names.

Therefore, we retract the statement that international laws say we ought to hyphenate. We agree with Elbert Little Jr. who said the U.S. Forest Service principles do not apply to other countries. We also note that two of the professional taxonomists consulted said, in effect, that they have enough trouble enforcing scientific names, and thus the decision to refrain from codifying common names has at various times been carefully considered and rejected. However, they noted that it is a good idea to use a hyphen (or compound words) to let readers know a common name is not taxonomically correct (i.e. uses the wrong genus name).

David B. South and William J. Libby