

INTERSPECIFIC HYBRIDIZATION IN PINUS:
A SUMMARY REVIEW

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The paper reviews the information derived from work on interspecific hybridization in the genus Pinus. With few exceptions, there are no marked barriers to crossing between different races of a species; pine species are partially or completely isolated from each other by genetic barriers; crossing is usually impossible between the 15 recognized groups; the two major groupings in Pinus (subgenera Strobus and Pinus), differ greatly in several aspects of species hybridization and most interspecific pine hybrids are highly variable and highly fertile.

The author points out that the genus Pinus differs from many herbaceous plant genera in that reproductive sterility is not common and is apparently unrelated to the magnitude of crossing barriers between species. Thus, the widely used biosystematic categories of ecotype, ecospecies, and coenospecies are not applicable to Pinus.

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