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**Boy is barely able to reach across more than 1,000 years of growth rings on this giant California redwood log.**

## Pines May Be Older Than Giant Redwoods

San Francisco — Sequoia sempervirens of Northern California looks down on Pinus Aristata from lofty heights as tree experts ponder which is the older—the massive redwoods or the scrubby little pine trees found 20 miles northeast of Bishop, Calif.

As for Sequoia sempervirens, the oldest thus far authenticated has reached the age of 2,200 years plus, according to Emanuel Fritz, professor emeritus of forestry at the University of California.

Dr. Edmund Schulman of the University of Arizona estimates three bristlecone pines located recently in east central California are 4,000 years old.

Professor Fritz does not rule out the possibility that

some redwoods of the Redwood Empire are older, much older, than the one which lived more than 22 centuries.

"There could be older specimens of the coast redwood," said Professor Fritz, "but we'll never know until someone cuts down one that appears older and makes a careful ring count."

The Pinus Aristata reported by the Arizona scientist are mere toothpicks compared to Sequoia sempervirens. The former have a maximum height of 30 feet and are from 25 inches to 50 inches in diameter. The tallest tree in the world is a Sequoia sempervirens, the Founders' Tree. It towers 364 feet and has a diameter of 12 feet 7 inches.

Professor Fritz believes the great tree located in the Humboldt State Redwood Park has reached its maximum height, but, he added, it will increase in girth as long as it has green leaves.