Pucté

Family. Combretaceae

Botanical Name(s).

Terminalia buceras
Bucida buceras (synonymous)

Continent. Latin America

CITES.

This species is not listed in the CITES Appendices (Washington Convention 2023).

Description of logs

Diameter. From 40 to 80 cm

Thickness of sapwood. From 2 to 4 cm

Floats. No

Log durability. Good

Description of wood

Colour reference. Dark brown

Sapwood. Clearly demarcated

Texture. Medium

Grain. Straight, slightly interlocked

Interlocked grain. Slight

Notes. Heartwood of a variable color, depending on the tree, from brown or greenish grey to brown to dark olive, generally different from the light brown greenish to greyish sapwood. Growth rings not visible.

Flat sawn

Quarter sawn

Physics and mechanics

The properties indicated are for mature wood. These properties may vary significantly depending on the origin and growing conditions of the wood.

Property	Average value
Specific gravity[1]	0.94
Monnin hardness[1]	6.5
Coefficient of volumetric shrinkage	0.66 % per %
Total tangential shrinkage (St)	8.9 %
Total radial shrinkage (Sr)	6.0 %
Ratio St/Sr	1.5 %
Fibre saturation point	21
Thermal conductivity (λ)	0.30 W/(m.K)
Lower heating value	
Crushing strength[1]	75 MPa
Static bending strength[1]	148 MPa
Modulus of elasticity[1]	15,300 MPa

[1] At 12 % moisture content, with 1 MPa = 1 N/mm

Natural durability and preservation

Resistance to fungi. Class 1 - very durable

Resistance to dry wood borers. Class D - durable (sapwood demarcated, risk limited to sapwood)

Resistance to termites. Class D - durable

Treatability. Class 4 - not permeable

Use class ensured by natural durability.

Class 4 - in ground or fresh water contact

Notes. According to the European standard NF EN 335 (2013), performance length might be modified by the intensity of end-use exposition.

Requirement of a preservative treatment

Against dry wood borer. Does not require any preservative treatment

In case of temporary humidification. Does not require any preservative treatment

In case of permanent humidification. Does not require any preservative treatment

Drying

Drying rate. Slow

Risk of distorsion. High risk

Risk of casehardening. No known specific risk

Risk of checking. Slight risk

Risk of collapse. No known specific risk

Suggested drying program.

Phases	Duration (H)	MC (%) probes	T (°C)	Rh (%)	UGL (%)
Prewarm 1		> 50	40	86	17.0
Prewarm 2	4	> 50	43	85	16.5
Drying		> 50	45	83	15.7
		50 - 40	45	80.0	14.6
		40 - 35	45	77.0	13.8
		35 - 30	45	74.0	12.9
		30 - 27	47	69.0	11.5
		27 - 24	49	61.0	9.9
		24 - 21	50	52.0	8.4
		21 - 18	53	48.0	7.7
		18 - 15	56	41.0	6.6
		15 - 12	59	36.0	5.9
		12 - 9	61	30.0	5.0
		9 - 6	65	29.0	4.7
Conditioning	8		58	(3)	(2)
Cooling	(1)		Arrêt	(3)	(2)

(1)) Cooling: until the temperature inside the kiln no longer exceeds external temperature by more than 30 °C.

(2) UGL = final H% x 0,8 to 0,9.

(3) Subtract RH from the UGL determined in (2) and temperature, using the Hailwood-Horrobin equation.

Sawing and machining

Blunting effect. Fairly high

Sawteeth recommended. Stellite-tipped

Cutting tools. Tungsten carbide

Peeling. Not recommended or without interest

Slicing. Good

Assembling

Nailing and screwing. Good but pre-boring necessary

Commercial grading

Appearance grading for sawn timbers.
According to the ATIBT grading rules (2017), the main choices are: FAS (First And Second), n°1 Common and select, n°2 Common (see details of these rules on the ATIBT website).

Visual grading for structural applications
No visual grading for structure

Fire safety

Conventional French grading.
Thickness > 14 mm: M3 (moderately inflammable)
Thickness < 14 mm: M4 (easily inflammable)

Euroclasses grading. D-s2, d0
Default grading for solid wood, according to requirements of European standard EN 14081-1+A1 (August 2019).
It concerns structural graded timber in vertical uses and ceiling with mean density upper 0.35 and thickness upper 22 mm.

End-uses

- Bridges (parts not in contact with water or ground)
- Cabinetwork (high class furniture)
- Decking
- Exterior joinery
- Heavy carpentry
- Hydraulic works (fresh water)
- Industrial or heavy flooring
- Poles
- Ship building
- Ship building (planking and deck)
- Sleepers
- Sliced veneer
- Tool handles (resilient woods)
- Turned goods
- Wood-ware

Pucté Deck - Fundación COPADE (© Javier Fernández)

Main local names

Country	Local name
Belize	Bullet tree
Cuba	Júcaro negro
Dominican Republic	Gri-gri
French Guiana	Bois gri-gris
French Guiana	Bois margot
French Guiana	Grignon
Guatemala	Pocte
Haiti	Gri-gri
Mexico	Cacho de toro
Mexico	Olivo negro
Mexico	Pucté
Panama	Mareón
Puerto Rico	Úcar
United States of America (importated tropical timber)	Black olive
United States of America (importated tropical timber)	Gregory wood
United States of America (importated tropical timber)	Oxhorn
United States of America (importated tropical timber)	Shady lady
Venezuela	Búcaro
Venezuela	Júcaro