

Common name: AÇACU

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE

Scientific name(s): Hura crepitans

#### LOG DESCRIPTION

Diameter: from 70 to 100 cm  
Thickness of sapwood: from 15 to 25 cm  
Floats: yes  
Durability in forest : Low (must be treated)

#### WOOD DESCRIPTION

Colour: Creamy white  
Sapwood: Not clearly demarcated  
Texture: Coarse  
Grain: Straight or interlocked  
Interlocked grain: Slight

Note: Bark contains a very irritant sap.  
Color varies from cream white to pinkish brown. Presence of tension wood.

#### PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Physical and mechanical properties are based on mature heartwood specimens. These properties can vary greatly depending on origin and growth conditions.

#### MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

	mean	standard deviation		mean	standard deviation
Density *:	0.45 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.08			
Monnin hardness*:	1.5	0.7	Crushing strength *:	31 MPa	7
Coef of volumetric shrinkage:	0.37 %	0.05	Static bending strength *:	56 MPa	9
Total tangential shrinkage:	4.7 %	0.3	Modulus of elasticity *:	9600 MPa	1288
Total radial shrinkage:	2.9 %	0.5			
Fibre saturation point:	27 %				
Stability:	stable		(* : at 12 % moisture content ; 1 MPa = 1 N/mm <sup>2</sup> )		

#### NATURAL DURABILITY AND TREATABILITY

Fungi and termite resistance refers to end-uses under temperate climate.

Except for special comments on sapwood, natural durability is based on mature heartwood.

Sapwood must always be considered as non-durable against wood degrading agents.

Fungi: Class 5 - not durable  
Dry wood borers: Susceptible; sapwood not or slightly demarcated (risk in all the wood)  
Termites: Class S - Susceptible  
Treatability: 1 - easily permeable  
Use class\*: 1 - inside (no dampness)  
Note: Very prone to blue stain.

\* ensured by natural durability (according EN standards).

#### MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Countries	Local names
Bolivia	OCHOHO
Brazil	AÇACU
Brazil	ASSACU
Colombia	CEIBA LECHOSA
Ecuador	HABILLO
French Guiana	BOIS DU DIABLE
French Guiana	SABLIER
Guyana	SANDBOX
Peru	CATAHUA
Surinam	POSSENTRIE
Surinam	POSSUM
Surinam	URA WOOD
U.S.A.	POSSUMWOOD
Venezuela	CEIBA HABILLO
Venezuela	JABILLO

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## AÇACU

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### REQUIREMENT OF A PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

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Against dry wood borer attacks:	Requires appropriate preservative treatment
In case of temporary humidification risk:	Requires appropriate preservative treatment
In case of permanent humidification risk:	Use not recommended

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### DRYING

#### Possible drying schedule

Drying rate:	Normal to slow	Temperature (°C)			Air humidity (%)
		M.C. (%)	dry-bulb	wet-bulb	
Risk of distortion:	High risk	Green	60	56	81
Risk of casehardening:	No	30	68	58	61
Risk of checking:	High risk	20	74	60	51
Risk of collapse:	No	15	80	61	41

This schedule is given for information only and is applicable to thickness < 38 mm.

It must be used in compliance with the code of practice.

For thickness from 38 to 75 mm , the air relative humidity should be increased by 5 % at each step.

For thickness over 75 mm , a 10 % increase should be considered.

Note: Slow drying is recommended (in that case, wood must be treated against blue stain) to reduce defects.

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### SAWING AND MACHINING

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Blunting effect:	Fairly high
Sawteeth recommended:	Stellite-tipped
Cutting tools:	Tungsten carbide
Peeling:	Good
Slicing:	Not recommended or without interest
Note:	Log turning sawing recommended to avoid shakes (tension wood). Fuzzy surface. Silica content is variable according to the country of origin.

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### ASSEMBLING

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Nailing / Screwing:	Poor
Gluing:	Correct

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### END-USES

Main known end-uses; they must to be implemented according to the code of practice.

Important remark: some end-uses are mentionned for information (traditional, regional or ancient end-uses).

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Note: Possible substitute for OBEICHE (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*). A careful sanding and a filling are recommended to obtain a good finish.

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Floats  
Boxes and crates  
Interior joinery  
Formwork  
Current furniture or furniture components  
Blockboard  
Veneer for interior of plywood  
Fiber or particle boards  
Matches  
Model building  
Wood-ware

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