

Common name: ITAUBA  
 Family: LAURACEAE  
 Scientific name(s): Mezilaurus itauba

**LOG DESCRIPTION**

Diameter: from 40 to 80 cm  
 Thickness of sapwood: from 2 to 5 cm  
 Floats: no  
 Durability in forest : Good

**WOOD DESCRIPTION**

Colour: Yellow brown  
 Sapwood: Not clearly demarcated  
 Texture: Fine  
 Grain: Straight  
 Interlocked grain: Absent

Note: Oily aspect. The colour varies from yellow brown to dark lustrous brown.

**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**

**MECHANICAL PROPERTIES**

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

	mean	standard deviation		mean	standard deviation
Density *:	0.86 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.05			
Monnin hardness*:	5.0	1.5	Crushing strength *:	62 MPa	10
Coef of volumetric shrinkage:	0.60 %	0.10	Static bending strength *:	125 MPa	18
Total tangential shrinkage:	9.7 %	1.8	Modulus of elasticity *:	21020 MPa	6268
Total radial shrinkage:	3.7 %	1.2			
Fibre saturation point:	27 %				
Stability:	Moderately 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 1 - very durable  
 Dry wood borers: Heartwood durable but sapwood not clearly demarcated  
 Termites: Class D - Durable  
 Treatability: 4 - not permeable  
 Use class\*: 4 - in ground or fresh water contact

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

Note: The possible presence of few demarcated sapwood in sawnwoods may have an influence on the expected durability. This species naturally covers the use class 5 (end-uses in marine environment or in brackish water) due to its high specific gravity and its repulsive extracts content.  
 According to the European standard NF EN 335, performance length might be modified by the intensity of end-use exposition.

**MAIN LOCAL NAMES**

Countries	Local names
Brazil	ITAUBA
Brazil	LOURO ITAUBA
French Guiana	TAOUB
French Guiana	TAOUB JAUNE
Surinam	KANEELHOUT

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## ITAUBA

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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:	Does not require any preservative treatment
In case of permanent humidification risk:	Does not require any preservative treatment

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### DRYING

#### Possible drying schedule

Drying rate:	Slow	Temperature (°C)			Air humidity (%)
		M.C. (%)	dry-bulb	wet-bulb	
Risk of distortion:	Slight risk	Green	40	37	82
Risk of casehardening:	No	40	44	38	68
Risk of checking:	High risk	30	44	36	59
Risk of collapse:	No	20	46	36	52
		15	49	37	46

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: Drying must be slow and careful in order 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:	Not recommended or without interest
Slicing:	Good
Note:	Some difficulties due to interlocked grain.

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### ASSEMBLING

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Nailing / Screwing:	Good but pre-boring necessary
Gluing:	Correct (for interior only)

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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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#### Sleepers

Bridges (parts in contact with water or ground)

Bridges (parts not in contact with water or ground)

Exterior joinery

Interior joinery

Interior panelling

Exterior panelling

Flooring

Sliced veneer

Posts

Current furniture or furniture components

Cabinetwork (high class furniture)

Seats

Shingles

Turned goods

Vehicle or container flooring

Ship building (ribs)

Ship building (planking and deck)

Open boats

Stairs (inside)

Heavy carpentry

Wood frame house

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