

Family: MALVACEAE (angiosperm)

Scientific name(s): Sterculia apetala  
 Sterculia caribaea  
 Sterculia pruriens  
 Sterculia rugosa

Commercial restriction: no commercial restriction

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

Color: light brown  
 Sapwood: not clearly demarcated  
 Texture: coarse  
 Grain: straight  
 Interlocked grain: absent

## LOG DESCRIPTION

Diameter: from 60 to 90 cm  
 Thickness of sapwood: from 4 to 6 cm  
 Floats: no  
 Log durability: low (must be treated)

## PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

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

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std dev.</u>
Specific gravity *:	0,64	0,06
Monnin hardness *:	2,3	0,3
Coeff. of volumetric shrinkage:	0,58 %	0,06 %
Total tangential shrinkage (TS):	10,1 %	1,2 %
Total radial shrinkage (RS):	5,0 %	0,7 %
TS/RS ratio:	2,0	
Fiber saturation point:	34 %	
Stability: poorly stable		

## MECHANICAL AND ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std dev.</u>
Crushing strength *:	54 MPa	6 MPa
Static bending strength *:	93 MPa	9 MPa
Modulus of elasticity *:	15690 MPa	1250 MPa

(\*: at 12% moisture content, with 1 MPa = 1 N/mm<sup>2</sup>)

Musical quality factor: 91,7 measured at 2880 Hz

## 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.

E.N. = Euro Norm

Funghi (according to E.N. standards): class 5 - not durable  
 Dry wood borers: susceptible - sapwood not or slightly demarcated (risk in all the wood)  
 Termites (according to E.N. standards): class S - susceptible  
 Treatability (according to E.N. standards): class 1 - easily permeable  
 Use class ensured by natural durability: class 1 - inside (no dampness)  
 Species covering the use class 5: No

## REQUIREMENT OF A PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

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

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## DRYING

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Drying rate: normal

Risk of distortion: high risk

Risk of casehardening: no

Risk of checking: high risk

Risk of collapse: no

Note: A moderate drying speed reduces defects.

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## SAWING AND MACHINING

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Blunting effect: normal

Sawteeth recommended: ordinary or alloy steel

Cutting tools: ordinary

Peeling: good

Slicing: good

Note: Fuzzy surface. To obtain a good finish, sharp cutters are recommended.

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## ASSEMBLING

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Nailing / screwing: good

Gluing: correct

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## COMMERCIAL GRADING

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Appearance grading for sawn timbers: According to NHLA grading rules (January 2007)

Possible grading: FAS, Select, Common 1, Common 2, Common 3

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## FIRE SAFETY

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Conventional French grading: Thickness > 14 mm : M.3 (moderately inflammable)

Thickness < 14 mm : M.4 (easily inflammable)

Euroclasses grading: D s2 d0

Default grading for solid wood, according to requirements of European standard EN 14081-1 annex C (April 2009). It concerns structural graded timber in vertical uses with mean density upper 0.35 and thickness upper 22 mm.

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## END-USES

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Veneer for interior of plywood

Fiber or particle boards

Interior joinery

Pulp

Interior panelling

Current furniture or furniture components

Flooring

Note: Wood also used for the fabrication of coffins.

Veneer for back or face of plywood

Blockboard

Boxes and crates

Formwork

Light carpentry

Sliced veneer

Seats

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**MAIN LOCAL NAMES**

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<u>Country</u>	<u>Local name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Local name</u>
Bolivia	MANI	Brazil	ACHICHA
Brazil	CHICHA	Brazil	TACACAZEIRO
Colombia	CAMAJURA	Cuba	ANACAGUITA
Ecuador	CACAO DE MOTE	Ecuador	SAPOTE
Ecuador	SAPUT	Ecuador	ZAPOTE
Guyana	MAHO	French Guiana	KOBE
Peru	HUARMI-CASPI	Peru	ZAPOTE SILVESTRE
Puerto Rico	ANACAGUITA	Suriname	JAHOBALLI
Suriname	KOBEHE	Suriname	OKRO-OEDOE
Trinidad and Tobago	MAHOE	Venezuela	CAMORUCO
Venezuela	MAYAGUA		

