

Family: LECYTHIDACEAE (angiosperm)

Scientific name(s): Couroupita spp.

Commercial restriction: no commercial restriction

WOOD DESCRIPTION

Color: light yellow
Sapwood: not demarcated
Texture: coarse
Grain: straight or interlocked
Interlocked grain: slight
Note: Unpleasant odour when green.

LOG DESCRIPTION

Diameter: from 60 to 120 cm
Thickness of sapwood:
Floats: yes
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 *:	0,45	0,04
Monnin hardness *:	1,4	0,3
Coeff. of volumetric shrinkage:	0,43 %	0,03 %
Total tangential shrinkage (TS):	6,6 %	1,1 %
Total radial shrinkage (RS):	3,9 %	0,5 %
TS/RS ratio:	1,7	
Fiber saturation point:	28 %	
Stability: moderately stable		

MECHANICAL AND ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std dev.</u>
Crushing strength *:	33 MPa	4 MPa
Static bending strength *:	55 MPa	7 MPa
Modulus of elasticity *:	9670 MPa	1583 MPa

(*: at 12% moisture content, with 1 MPa = 1 N/mm²)

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

DRYING

Drying rate: normal to slow

Risk of distortion: slight risk

Risk of casehardening: no

Risk of checking: slight risk

Risk of collapse: no

Note: Possible risks of casehardening. Drying must be done with care and slowly in order to reduce distortions.

Possible drying schedule: 3

M.C. (%)	Temperature (°C)		Air humidity (%)
	dry-bulb	wet-bulb	
Green	60	56	81
30	68	58	61
20	74	60	51
15	80	61	41

This schedule is given for information only and is applicable to thickness lower or equal to 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.

SAWING AND MACHINING

Blunting effect: normal

Sawteeth recommended: ordinary or alloy steel

Cutting tools: ordinary

Peeling: good

Slicing: not recommended or without interest

Note: Tendency to woolliness. Dust causes coughing. Filling is recommended in order to obtain a good finish.

ASSEMBLING

Nailing / screwing: poor

Gluing: correct

COMMERCIAL GRADING

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

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

FIRE SAFETY

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.

END-USES

Veneer for interior of plywood

Boxes and crates

Formwork

Moulding

Interior joinery

Fiber or particle boards

Floats

Interior panelling

Blockboard

Current furniture or furniture components

Matches

Wood-ware

MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Country

Brazil (Amazon)
Guyana
Suriname

Local name

CASTANHA DE MACACO
CANON BALL
BOSHCALABAS

Country

Brazil (Amazon)
French Guiana

Local name

MACACARECUIA
BOULET DE CANON

