Tropical Timberwoods, Inc.

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Sucupira/Tatabu

Scientific Name: Diplotropis purpurea

Distribution: Uplands of the Guianas and in Pará and Amazonas in Brazil. Fairly common in parts of Brazil and French Guiana, infrequent in Surinam and Guyana.

The Tree: Is commonly 90 to 100 ft in height and 16 to 24 in. in diameter, occasionally up to 40 in. The bole is usually straight, cylindrical, unbuttressed, and clear to lengths of 60 to 70 ft.

General Characteristics: Fresh cut heartwood is generally chocolate brown turning to a lighter brown when dry, occasionally grayish brown, with fine lighter parenchyma stripes; sharply demarcated from whitish or yellowish sapwood. Texture coarse; grain usually straight to slightly interlocked or slightly wavy; luster medium to high and golden, often with a waxy appearance; without distinctive odor to taste.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.78, air-dry density 58 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (First set of values based on the 2-in. standard; second set on the 1-in. standard.)

Moisture Content (%)	Bending Strength (Psi)	Modulus of Elasticity (1,000 Psi)	Max. Crushing Strength (Psi)
Green (73)	17,400	2,680	8,020
12%	20,560	2,870	12,140
12% (24)	20,900	3,140	12,300
NOTE: duplicate values under "Moisture Content" represent multiple tests conducted at different times.			

Janka side hardness 1,980 lb for green material and 2,140 lb at 12% moisture content. Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material is 201 in.-lb (5/8-in. specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: The wood is moderately difficult to air season and rapid drying results is some checking and warping. Considerable checking and warping will occur in kiln-drying unless a mild schedule is used; T7-B3 has been suggested for 4/4 stock. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 4.6%; tangential 7.0%: volumetric 11.8%.

Working Properties: The wood is moderately difficult to work and resulting surfaces, especially in planing, are fair to poor due to the coarse texture and frequent grain irregularity. The wood turns well and takes a good finish if filter is first applied.

Durability: In laboratory evaluations, the heartwood is rated very durable in resistance to both white-rot and brown-rot fungi. Other evaluations rate the wood a moderately durable; highly resistant to attack by dry-wood termites; not resistant to marine borers.

Preservation: If there is good end-grain exposure, absorption and penetration of preserving solutions are adequate using either open-tank or presssure-vacuum systems.

Uses: Heavy construction work, boat building, flooring, furniture components, turnery, railroad crossties, and tool handles.