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## Iroko

### Chlorophora excelsa

Family: Moraceae

**Other Common Names:** Semli (Sierra Leone, Liberia), Odoum (Ghana, Ivory Coast), Rokko, Oroko (Nigeria), Abang, Mandji (Cameroon, Gabon), Mereira (Angola), Kambala (Zaire), Mvule (East Africa).

**Distribution:** The two species, between them, extend across the entire width of tropical Africa. *C. regia* limited to the extreme west of Africa from Gambia to Ghana and is less drought resistant.

**The Tree:** May reach a height of 160 ft, bole straight, cylindrical and clear to 80 ft, small buttresses sometimes present.

#### The Wood:

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood varies from a pale yellowish brown to dark chocolate brown with lighter markings most conspicuous on flat-sawn surfaces; sapwood yellowish white, clearly demarcated. Texture medium to coarse; grain typically interlocked, sometimes irregular; slightly greasy feel; without odor; wet sawdust may cause dermatitis; occasional large "stone" deposits of calcium carbonate.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.55; air-dry density about 43 pcf.

Janka side hardness 1,080 lb for green and 1,260 lb for dry material. Amsler toughness 166 to 248 in.-lb for dry material (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries rapidly with little or no degrade. Kiln schedule T6-D2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-D1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 2.8%; tangential 3.8%; volumetric 8.8%. Movement in service is rated as small.

**Working Properties:** Works fairly easily with hand or machine tools but with some tearing of interlocked grain; occasional deposits of calcium carbonate severely damage cutting edges; good nailing and gluing characteristics; moderate steam-bending properties; may cause dermatitis in working wet wood.

**Durability:** Heartwood is very durable and is resistant to termite and marine borer attack as well. Sapwood liable to powder-post beetle attack.

**Preservation:** Heartwood is extremely resistant to preservative treatments; sapwood permeable.

**Uses:** Suggested as a teak substitute. Joinery, boatbuilding, piling and marine work, domestic flooring, furniture, veneer, railroad crossties, cabinetwork, shop fittings.

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*Technology Transfer Fact Sheet*



**Center for Wood Anatomy Research**

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