



**Timber Team International A/S**  
Naverland 2  
2600 Glostrup  
Denmark  
tel: +45 4344 3044  
fax: +45 4344 2255  
all@timberteam.com  
www.timberteam.com



## Khaya s.p.p.

### Khaya ivorensis and Khaya anthotheca

#### **African Mahogany**

**Family:** Meliaceae

**Other Common Names:** Often further classified as to port of shipment or country of origin; consignments to U.S. trade mostly K. ivorensis. Munyama (Uganda), Acajou d'Afrique (Ivory Coast), Dubini, Dukuma fufu (Ghana), Ogwango (Nigeria).

**Distribution:** Sierra Leone and Liberia to Gabon. K. anthotheca then extends eastward to Uganda and inhabits lower rainfall regions than K. ivorensis.

**The Tree:** Reaches heights of 180 to 200 ft; boles are straight, cylindrical, and clear to 90 ft; trunk diameters are 3 to 6 ft, buttressed.

#### **The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood light pinkish brown darkening upon exposure to reddish brown; sapwood whitish or yellowish, not always sharply demarcated. Texture medium to coarse; grain straight to interlocked, producing a stripe figure; lustrous. Brittleheart present in some logs. Dust from K. anthotheca may be a skin irritant.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.44; air-dry density 32 pcf.

Janka side hardness 640 to 735 lb for green material and 830 to 860 lb for dry. Amsler toughness 178 in.-lb for dry material (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries rapidly with little degrade. If tension wood is present, serious distortion may occur during drying. Kiln schedule T6-D4 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-03 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 3.2%; tangential 5.6%. Movement in service is rated as small.

**Working Properties:** Rather variable, tends to woolliness and torn grain, sharp thin edge cutters are suggested, a cutting angle of 20 degrees in planing is recommended. Nailing and gluing properties are good, an excellent finish is readily obtainable. Easy to slice and peel.

**Durability:** Heartwood is rated as moderately durable, prone to buprestid and termite attack. Sapwood liable to powder-post beetle attack.

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

**Uses:** Furniture and cabinetwood, boatbuilding, joinery, veneer and plywood, paneling, shop fixtures.

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**Center for Wood Anatomy Research**

USDA Forest Service • Forest Products Laboratory • One Gifford Pinchot Drive • Madison, Wisconsin 53726-2398