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## Wawa / Ayous / Samba

*Triplochiton scleroxylon*

Obeche

**Family:** Sterculiaceae

**Other Common Names:** Arere, Obeche (Nigeria), Samba (Ivory Coast), Ayous (Cameroon), Wawa (Ghana), Abachi (Germany, Holland).

**Distribution:** Widely distributed in tropical West Africa from Guinea to Cameroon; predominantly along waterways and on abandoned farms in the transition zone between the humid evergreen and semideciduous forests.

**The Tree:** A large tree 150 to 180 ft in height, boles straight, cylindrical, and clear to 80 ft; buttresses may reach to 20 ft; trunk diameters to 5 ft.

### The Wood:

**General Characteristics:** Timber whitish to pale straw with no difference between heartwood and sapwood. Texture medium to coarse; grain typically interlocked, giving a striped figure; lustrous; has an unpleasant smell when green but usually does not persist after drying.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.32; air-dry density 24 pcf.

Janka side hardness 420 lb for green material and 430 lb for dry. Amsler toughness 105 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries very rapidly and with little or no degrade, slight warp though, may occur. Kiln schedule T14-C6S is suggested for 4/4 stock and T12-C5S for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 3.0%; tangential 5.4%; volumetric 9.2%. Movement in service is rated as small.

**Working Properties:** Works very easily with hand and machine tools but sharp edges are needed for a smooth finish, veneers easily, good gluing and nailing properties.

**Durability:** Heartwood is not durable and liable to termite and other insect attack; sapwood prone to powder-post beetle attack. Logs must be extracted from the forest and converted rapidly to avoid deterioration by fungi and insects.

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

**Uses:** Furniture components, plywood, joinery, millwork, boxes and crates, blockboard, particle and fiberboard, patternmaking, artificial limbs.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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