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## Zebrano / Zebrawood

*Microberlinia brazzavillensis*

Family: Leguminosae

**Other Common Names:** Zingana (Gabon), Allen ele (Cameroon).

**Distribution:** West Africa, mainly in Gabon and Cameroon, gregarious, sometimes in pure stands along riverbanks.

**The Tree:** A tall tree to 150 ft; bole straight and cylindrical but relatively short, up to 50 ft; trunk diameters 4 to 5 ft over low buttresses.

### The Wood:

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood pale yellow brown with narrow darker streaks, striping pattern varies considerably; sapwood white up to 4 in. wide, distinct. Texture medium to coarse; grain usually wavy or interlocked; lustrous; unpleasant odor disappears after drying.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) about 0.70; air-dry density 53 pcf.

Amsler toughness 550 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Difficult to season without warping, should be quartersawn to minimize degrade. Kiln schedule T2-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-C1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 6.8%; tangential 11.5% volumetric 16.5%

**Working Properties:** Saws fairly well, a clean smooth finish is sometimes difficult to obtain with machine or hand planing, tearing of interlocked grain; good gluing properties, veneers need careful handling to avoid cracking.

**Durability:** Heartwood is durable and resistant to termite attack.

**Preservation:** Heartwood extremely resistant; sapwood permeable.

**Uses:** Decorative veneers, turnery. Because of high toughness, used in ski manufacture, tool handles, etc.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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