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Afrormosia

Pericopsis elata syn. *Afrormosia elata*

Family: Leguminosae

Other Common Names: Kokrodua (Ghana), Assamela (Ivory Coast).

Distribution: West Africa, but mainly Ghana and the Ivory Coast, gregarious, grows in both wet and dry areas.

The Tree: May reach a height of 150 ft; bole somewhat irregular, clear to 90 to 100 ft, buttressed to 8 ft and then fluted; trunk diameters 3 to 6 ft.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood yellow brown turning to a dark brown on exposure sapwood narrow, lighter in color and clearly demarcated. Texture moderately fine; grain straight to interlocked; some resemblance to teak.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.57; air-dry density 43 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

Janka side hardness about 1,560 lb for dry material. Amsler toughness 166 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Dries rather slowly with little degrade apart from slight warp. Kiln schedule T10-D5S is suggested for 4/4 stock and T8-D4S for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 3.0%; tangential 6.4%; volumetric 10.7%. Movement in service is rated as small.

Working Properties: Works well with hand and machine tools, finishes cleanly, turns satisfactorily, good gluing, moderate steam-bending properties. Sawdust reported to be an eye irritant, good ventilation needed.

Durability: Heartwood is rated as very durable and highly resistant to termite attack. Dark stains liable to appear if in contact with iron under damp conditions.

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

Uses: Boatbuilding, joinery, flooring, furniture, decorative veneers, considered an excellent teak substitute.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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