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Kossipo

Entandrophragma candollei

Family: Meliaceae

Other Common Names: Omu (Nigeria), Candollei (Ghana).

Distribution: West Africa to Angola and the Congo region; in evergreen, moist, and transitional formations.

The Tree: A large tree to a height of 200 ft with a wide-spreading crown; bole cylindrical, straight and clear to 100 ft; trunk diameters up to 7 ft, buttressed to a height of about 10 ft.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood dull brown or purple brown and clearly demarcated from the whitish to pale brown sapwood. Texture rather coarse; grain generally interlocked; without distinctive odor or taste. This is the only species of Entandrophragma that is reported to contain silica.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.52 to 0.65; air- dry density 40 to 50 pcf.

Amsler toughness 206 to 228 in.-lb for dry material (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Dries rather slowly with a marked tendency to warp, good stacking minimizes degrade. Kiln schedule T2-D4 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-D3 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to air-dry: radial 4.0%; tangential 6.0%. Movement in service is rated as medium.

Working Properties: Rather difficult to saw, works readily with hand and machine tools, tends to tear interlocked grain, polishes and finishes well.

Durability: Heartwood moderately durable and moderately resistant to termite attack.

Preservation: Heartwood resistant to preservative treatment; sapwood moderately resistant.

Uses: Joinery, furniture and cabinetwork, flooring, decorative veneers, plywood, boat construction.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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