



Timber Team International A/S

Naverland 2
2600 Glostrup
Denmark

tel: +45 4344 3044
fax: +45 4344 2255

all@timberteam.com
www.timberteam.com



Koto

Pterygota spp.

Pterygota

Family: Sterculiaceae

Other Common Names: Kyere, Awari, Okyere (Ghana), Koto (Ivory Coast), Poroposo, Kefe (Nigeria).

Distribution: Common in tropical evergreen and mixed deciduous forests of West Africa.

The Tree: May reach a height of 120 ft; bole rather straight and cylindrical, clear to 40 to 80 ft, buttressed to 20 ft; trunk diameters 2 to 4 ft.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Wood pale yellow to a creamy white with little differentiation between sapwood and heartwood. Texture rather coarse; grain straight to interlocked; green material has an unpleasant smell which disappears on drying; high rays give a conspicuous flecked figure; commonly with small knot

clusters.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.47 to 0.56; air-dry density 35 to 43 pcf.

Janka side hardness 670 to 790 lb for green material and 940 to 970 lb for dry. Amsler toughness 260 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Timber seasons fairly rapidly with only a slight tendency to check or warp. Kiln schedule T10-D4S is suggested for 4/4 stock and T8-D3S for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 5.7%; tangential 11.4%; volumetric 15.0%. Movement in service rated as medium.

Working Properties: Works fairly easily with hand and machine tools, a cutting angle of 20 degrees is suggested to reduce tearing of interlocked grain in planing, glues and nails satisfactorily, peels and slices into veneers satisfactorily.

Durability: Heartwood is not durable and is liable to termite attack; sapwood liable to powder-post beetle attack. Logs are prone to stain and insect attack requiring rapid removal from the forest or a chemical treatment.

Preservation: Heartwood moderately resistant to impregnation; sapwood permeable.

Uses: Furniture components, joinery, general carpentry, boxes and crates, plywood.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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