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Makoré / Douka

Tieghemella heckelii

and T. africana

Family: Sapotaceae

Other Common Names: (T. heckelii) Baku (Ghana), Makore (Ivory Coast); (T. africana) Douka, Ukola (Gabon).

Distribution: Both species together are found from Sierra Leone to Cameroon, Gabon, and south to Cabinda; widely distributed in the high rain forests.

The Tree: Reaches a height of 180 to 200 ft; boles straight, cylindrical, and clear to 100 ft, free of buttresses; trunk diameters generally about 4 ft but may be up to 10 ft.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood pink to pink- or red brown; sapwood 2 to 3 in. wide, whitish or light pink, clearly demarcated. Texture fine to medium; grain generally straight; lustrous; sometimes with an attractive moiré figure. Liable to stain in contact with iron when damp.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) about 0.55; air-dry density 42 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

Janka side hardness 930 lb for green material and 1,110 lb for dry. Amsler toughness 126 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Dries at a slow to moderate rate with little degrade. Kiln schedule T10-D4S is suggested for 4/4 stock and T8-D3S for 8/4 (T. heckelii). Shrinkage green to ovendry; radial 4.7 to 6.2%; tangential 6.8 to 8.0%; volumetric 10.6 to 11.0%. Movement in service is rated as small.

Working Properties: A high silica content causes blunting of cutting edges, particularly in dry wood; works reasonably well with hand and machine tools, good veneering properties, finishes well, good gluing properties. Fine dust may irritate nose and throat or cause dermatitis.

Durability: Heartwood is highly durable and resistant to termite attack; sapwood liable to powder-post beetle attack.

Preservation: Heartwood is extremely resistant to preservative treatments; sapwood moderately resistant.

Uses: Furniture, cabinetwork, joinery, decorative veneers, paneling, boatbuilding, flooring, turnery, marine plywood.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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