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## Mansonia /Beté

Mansonia altissima

**Family:** Sterculiaceae

**Other Common Names:** Aprono (Ghana), Bete (Ivory Coast), Ofun (Nigeria), Koul (Cameroon).

**Distribution:** Occurs in the deciduous forest type from ivory Coast to Cameroon.

**The Tree:** Reaches a height of 120 ft; bole clear and straight, buttressed, up to 60 ft in length; trunk diameters 2 to 3 ft.

**The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood yellow brown or dark gray brown, frequently with a purplish cast, often shows light and dark bands; sapwood whitish, sharply demarcated. Texture fine to medium; grain generally straight; luster low to medium. Resembles American black walnut. Lacks a distinct odor or taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.50 to 0.58; air-dry density 38 to 45 pcf.

Janka side hardness 1,210 lb for green and 1,290 lb for dry wood. Amsler toughness 150 to 324 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries fairly rapidly with little degrade but knots tend to split and shake tends to extend. Kiln schedule T10-D4S is suggested for 4/4 stock and T8-D3S for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 4.4%; tangential 7.3%; volumetric 10.2%. Movement in service is rated as medium.

**Working Properties:** Works easily with hand and machine tools with little dulling of cutters, has good nailing and gluing properties, rated as a good steam-bending wood. Sawdust may cause nose and throat irritation.

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

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

**Uses:** High quality cabinet and furniture work, joinery, turnery, decorative veneers Bark contains a cardiac poison of the digitalis group. Used as an alternate for walnut.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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