

Common name:	ITAUBA
Family:	LAURACEAE
Scientific name(s):	Mezilaurus itauba

LOG DESCRIPTION		WOOD DESCRIPTION	
Diameter:	from 40 to 80 cm	Colour:	Yellow brown
Thickness of sapwood:	from 2 to 5 cm	Sapwood:	Not clearly demarcated
Floats:	no	Texture:	Fine
Durability in forest :	Good	Grain:	Straight
		Interlocked grain:	Absent
Note:	Oily aspect. The colour varies from yellow brown to dark lustrous brown.		

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES			MECHANICAL PROPERTIES		
Physical and mechanical properties are based on mature heartwood specimens. These properties can vary greatly depending on origin and growth conditions.					
	mean	standard deviation		mean	standard deviation
Density *:	0.86 g/cm ³	0.05			
Monnin hardness*:	5.0	1.5	Crushing strength *:	62 MPa	10
Coef of volumetric shrinkage:	0.60 %	0.10	Static bending strength *:	125 MPa	18
Total tangential shrinkage:	9.7 %	1.8	Modulus of elasticity *:	21020 MPa	6268
Total radial shrinkage:	3.7 %	1.2			
Fibre saturation point:	27 %				
Stability:	Moderately stable		(* : at 12 % moisture content ; 1 MPa = 1 N/mm ²)		

NATURAL DURABILITY AND TREATABILITY

Fungi and termite resistance refers to end-uses under temperate climate.

Except for special comments on sapwood, natural durability is based on mature heartwood.

Sapwood must always be considered as non-durable against wood degrading agents.

Fungi:	Class 1 - very durable	* ensured by natural durability (according EN standards).
Dry wood borers:	Heartwood durable but sapwood not clearly demarcated	
Termites:	Class D - Durable	
Treatability:	4 - not permeable	
Biological hazard class*:	4 - in ground or fresh water contact or high dampness	
Note:	The possible presence of few demarcated sapwood in sawnwoods may have an influence on the expected durability. Due to its high specific gravity and its repulsive extracts content, this species naturally covers the biological hazard class 5 (end-uses in marine environment or in brackish water).	

COUNTRIES - LOCAL NAMES

Countries	Local names
Brazil	ITAUBA
Brazil	LOURO ITAUBA
French Guiana	TAOUB
French Guiana	TAOUB JAUNE
Surinam	KANEELHOUT

REQUIREMENT OF A PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

Against dry wood borer attacks:	Requires appropriate preservative treatment
In case of temporary humidification risk:	Does not require any preservative treatment
In case of permanent humidification risk:	Does not require any preservative treatment

DRYING

Possible drying schedule

		Temperature (°C)			Air humidity (%)
		M.C. (%)	dry-bulb	wet-bulb	
Drying rate:	Slow				
Risk of distortion:	Slight risk				
Risk of casehardening:	No				
Risk of checking:	High risk	Green	40	37	82
Risk of collapse:	No	40	44	38	68
		30	44	36	59
		20	46	36	52
		15	49	37	46

This shedule is given for information only and is applicable to thickness < 38 mm.

It must be used in compliance with the code of practice.

For thickness from 38 to 75 mm , the air relative humidity should be increased by 5 % at each step.

For thickness over 75 mm , a 10 % increase should be considered.

Note: Drying must be slow and careful in order to reduce defects.

SAWING AND MACHINING

Blunting effect:	Fairly high
Sawteeth recommended:	Stellite-tipped
Cutting tools:	Tungsten carbide
Peeling:	Not recommended or without interest
Slicing:	Good
Note:	Some difficulties due to interlocked grain.

ASSEMBLING

Nailing / Screwing:	Good but pre-boring necessary
Gluing:	Correct (for interior only)

END-USES

Main known end-uses; they must to be implemented according to the code of practice.

Important remark: some end-uses are mentionned for information (traditional, regional or ancient end-uses).

Sleepers	Heavy carpentry
Bridges (parts in contact with water or ground)	Wood frame house
Bridges (parts not in contact with water or ground)	
Exterior joinery	
Interior joinery	
Interior panelling	
Exterior panelling	
Flooring	
Sliced veneer	
Posts	
Current furniture or furniture components	
Cabinetwork (high class furniture)	
Seats	
Shingles	
Turned goods	
Vehicle or container flooring	
Ship building (ribs)	
Ship building (planking and deck)	
Open boats	
Stairs (inside)	