



# ***BELIZEAN HARDWOOD***



Tree of Cortez Estate Development

Bessa Décor Furniture and Woodworking

# Belizean Hardwood

**BESSA DÉCOR FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING AND TREE OF CORTEZ ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PRESENT BEAUTIFUL SELECTED BELIZEAN WOOD FURNITURE, CUSTOM MADE STUNNING COLONIAL, MODERN OR TROPICAL INSPIRED DESIGNS; LAMINATED AND PRECUT WOOD PIECES READY TO SERVE YOUR WOODWORKING NEEDS CAN BE SUPPLIED AS WELL**



## Introduction

Tree of Cortez developers and consultants came to Belize from Ontario Canada in 2014 and started real estate development in Corozal Belize. Now we started working with local high-end furniture maker Bessa Décor trying to promote Belizean wood in Canada and USA. We can supply most popular shapes of precut high quality planed pieces of variety of tropical hardwood, custom ordered sizes and even moldings and doors. We work with many types of wood, some of them: [Honduran Mahogany](#), [Machiche](#), [Nargusta](#), [Granadillo](#), [Sapodilla](#), [Bullet Tree](#) (2 kinds), Santa Maria, with some limitations "Poisonwood" ([Chechen](#)), [Bocote](#) and [Zericote](#). Please contact us directly for prices, availability and your needs.

*~Woodworking is a most satisfying pastime, so varied and multifaceted you will never complete the twin processes you have undertaken: acquiring tools and learning how to use them. You have begun a lifetime pursuit. ~*

*Michael Dunbar, "Essential Tools"*

## *The Wood Details*

### **BULLET TREE (MANILKARA BIDENTATA)**

**Common Name(s):** Sapotaceae, Balata, Balata Rogue, Abeille, Bolletrie, Massaranduba, Purgo, Quinilla, Pamashto, and Ausubo



**Distribution:** Southern Mexico and Central America. It is a fruit tree, and isn't widely harvested for lumber.

**Tree Size:** 100-150 ft (30-46 m) tall, 2-4 ft (.6-1.2 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 67 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (1,080 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .85, 1.08

**Janka Hardness:** 3,130 lb<sub>f</sub> (13,920 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 27,870 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (192.2 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 3,344,000 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (23.06 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 12,930 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (89.2 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 6.7%, Tangential: 9.4%, Volumetric: 16.8%, T/R Ratio: 1.4

**Colour/Appearance:** Heartwood is a medium to dark reddish brown. Colour tends to darken with age. Pale yellow sapwood is clearly differentiated from the heartwood, though not always sharply demarcated.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain straight to interlocked or wavy; fine uniform texture with low natural lustre.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; radial multiples of 2-5 common; medium to large pores, few; tyloses and mineral deposits common; parenchyma diffuse-in-aggregates, reticulate; narrow rays, spacing fairly close.

**Rot Resistance:** Rated as very durable, with good resistance to most insect attack but susceptible to marine borers.

**Workability:** Despite its high density, Bulletwood generally produces good results with both hand and machine tools, though it does exhibit an above-average dulling effect on cutters. Responds well to steam-bending. Can pose challenges in gluing due to high density and oil content.

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Bulletwood has been reported to cause skin irritation.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Heavy construction (within its natural range), decking, flooring, boatbuilding, bent parts, and turned objects.

**Comments:** Bulletwood is an incredibly strong, dense wood which has good durability in exterior applications.

The many good characteristics of Bulletwood make it useful for a number of special uses. It is used for billiard cues, violin cues, turnings of all types, and furniture. Its strength, high wear resistance, and excellent durability adapt the timber for use as sheathing, boat frames, mill rollers, and keel shoes.

The wood is used for many additional purposes including utility poles, fence posts, heavy construction, ax and tool handles, railway ties, heavy beams, marine and bridge construction, flooring, foundations, and to a great extent, for all types of carpentry and joinery. It is also reported to give good service as flooring in industrial plants and machine shops and in bench tops, stair treads, and truck bodies.

## *The Wood Details*

### **SAPODILLA (MANILKARA ZAPOTA)**

**Common Name(s):** Chico Zapote, Zapote, Sapodilla



**Distribution:** Southern Mexico and Central America. It is a fruit tree, and isn't widely harvested for lumber.

**Tree Size:** 65-100 ft. (20-30 m) tall, 2-3 ft. (.6-1 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 65 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (1,040 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .82, 1.04

**Janka Hardness:** 2,970 lb<sub>f</sub> (13,210 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 26,710 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (184.2 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 2,960,000 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (20.41 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 12,440 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (85.8 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 6.2%, Tangential: 9.2%, Volumetric: 16.0%, T/R Ratio: 1.5

**Colour/Appearance:** Colour ranges from a pink or red to a darker reddish brown. Pale yellowish sapwood gradually transitions to heartwood. Gum pockets are commonly found in this wood.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain is straight (or occasionally wavy) with a medium to fine uniform texture.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; medium-small pores in no specific arrangement; commonly in radial multiples of 2-6; gums and other heartwood deposits present; growth rings indistinct; rays not visible without lens; parenchyma banded (numerous fine bands).

**Rot Resistance:** Reported to have outstanding durability and insect resistance. (Intact beams and lintels made of Sapodilla have been found amid the ruins of Mayan temples.)

**Workability:** Checking is common with this species, and even turning blanks are sometimes sold dry instead of green. Can be difficult to work on account of its density, but generally produces good results. It has moderate blunting effect on cutters. Turns and finishes well.

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Although severe reactions are quite uncommon rarely reported to cause nasal irritation.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Cabinetry, furniture, archery bows, flooring and other small specialty wood items.

## *The Wood Details*

### **MACHICHE (LONCHOCARPUS CASTILLOI)**

**Common Name(s):** Mayan Cherry, Caribbean Cherry, Black Cabbage Bark, Balche, Machiche, Jatoba, Copal, Nazareno, Black Cabbagebark



**Distribution:** Southern Mexico, Central America, Latin America, Malaysia, Philippines

**Tree Size:** 65-100 ft (20-30 m) tall, 2-3 ft (.6-1 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 55 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (890 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .69, .89

**Janka Hardness:** 2,800 lb<sub>f</sub> (12,010 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 25,200 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (173.8 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 2,745,000 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (18.93 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 12,500 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (86.2 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 3.9%, Tangential: 8.2%, Volumetric: 13.0%, T/R Ratio: 2.1

**Colour/Appearance:** Heartwood varies from a light brown to a darker reddish brown. Has patterns of thin, light-coloured lines (due to the wide bands of parenchyma present in the wood structure), somewhat similar to Padauk. Yellow sapwood is easily distinguished from heartwood.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain can be straight, irregular, or interlocked, with a coarse texture.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; medium to large pores in no specific arrangement; solitary and radial multiples of 2-3; heartwood gum deposits occasionally present; growth rings distinct, confluent, and banded.

**Rot Resistance:** Machiche's durability can vary depending on species, but is generally considered to be very durable, and resistant to insect attack.

**Workability:** Despite Machiche's high density, it typically is easy to work. As in all cases of interlocked or irregular grain, care must be taken to avoid tearout, but machining results are generally good. Turns, glues, and finishes well.

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Machiche has been reported to cause skin irritation.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Decking, flooring, furniture, as well as heavy construction in areas within its natural range.

**Comments:** Machiche can have a somewhat bland and boring appearance, though finishing the wood serves to bring out the fine, light-coloured parenchyma bands, giving the wood a character.

Machiche has a superb strength-to-weight ratio, particularly in its modulus of rupture (bending strength), and its compression strength parallel to the grain (crushing strength).



# *The Wood Details*

## HONDURAN MAHOGANY (SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA)

**Common Name(s):** Honduran Mahogany, Honduras Mahogany, American Mahogany, Genuine Mahogany, Big-Leaf Mahogany, Brazilian Mahogany



**Distribution:** From Southern Mexico to central South America; also commonly grown on plantations

**Tree Size:** 150-200 ft (46-60 m) tall, 3-6 ft (1-2 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 37 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (590 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .52, .59

**Janka Hardness:** 900 lb<sub>f</sub> (4,020 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 11,710 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (80.8 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 1,458,000 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (10.06 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 6,760 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (46.6 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 2.9%, Tangential: 4.3%, Volumetric: 7.5%, T/R Ratio: 1.5

**Colour/Appearance:** Heartwood colour can vary a fair amount with Honduran Mahogany, from a pale pinkish brown, to a darker reddish brown. Colour tends to darken with age. Mahogany also exhibits an optical phenomenon known as chatoyancy.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain can be straight, interlocked, irregular or wavy. Texture is medium and uniform, with moderate natural luster.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; large pores in no specific arrangement; solitary and radial multiples of 2-3; mineral deposits occasionally present; growth rings distinct due to marginal parenchyma; rays barely visible without lens; parenchyma banded (marginal), paratracheal parenchyma vasicentric.

**Rot Resistance:** Varies from moderately durable to very durable depending on density and growing conditions of the tree. (Older growth trees tend to produce darker, heavier, and more durable lumber than plantation-grown stock.) Resistant to termites, but vulnerable to other insects.

**Workability:** Typically very easy to work with tools: machines well. (with exception to sections with figured grain, which can tearout or chip during machining.) Slight dulling of cutters can occur. Sands very easily. Turns, glues, stains, and finishes well.

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Honduran Mahogany has been reported as a sensitizer. Usually most common reactions simply include eye, skin and respiratory irritation, as well as less common effects, such as boils, asthma-like symptoms, nausea, giddiness, and hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is in CITES Appendix II, and is on the IUCN Red List. It is listed as vulnerable due to a population reduction of over 20% in the past three generations, caused by a decline in its natural range, and exploitation.

**Common Uses:** Furniture, cabinetry, turned objects, veneers, musical instruments, boatbuilding, and carving.

**Comments:** Honduran Mahogany goes by many names, yet perhaps its most accurate and telling name is *Genuine Mahogany*. Not to be confused with cheaper imitations, such as Philippine Mahogany, *Swietenia macrophylla* is what most consider to be the real and true species when referring to "Mahogany."

An incredibly important commercial timber in Latin America, Honduran Mahogany is now grown extensively on plantations. It has been widely exploited, leading to its inclusion on the CITES Appendix II in 2003. In effect, this limits the international exporting of the lumber to certified sustainable sources. (This is also why many lumber retailers located in the United States are unable to ship Honduran Mahogany outside of the country.) Substitutes sometimes used are African Mahogany or Sapele.

Honduran Mahogany's easy workability, combined with its beauty and phenomenal stability have made this lumber an enduring favourite.

## *The Wood Details*

### **NARGUSTA (TERMINALIA AMAZONIA)**

**Common Name(s):** Roble Coral, Amarillón, Canùx, Naranjo, Volador, Amarillo Real, Guayabo De Charco, Bullywood



**Distribution:** From Southern Mexico to Brazil

**Tree Size:** 100-165 ft. (30-50 m) tall, 3-5 ft. (1-1.5 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 49 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (785 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .66, .79

**Janka Hardness:** 1,750 lb<sub>f</sub> (7,770 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 17,770 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (122.5 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 2,205,000 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (15.21 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 9,570 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (66.0 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 6.4%, Tangential: 8.7%, Volumetric: 14.9%, T/R Ratio: 1.4

**Colour/Appearance:** Heartwood varies from light to medium brown, sometimes with a golden or olive cast and occasionally seen with darker reddish brown streaks. The yellow sapwood is not easily distinguished from heartwood.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually interlocked, but can sometimes be straight grained. With a fine, uniform texture, and good natural lustre.

**Rot Resistance:** Varies from very durable to moderately durable; mixed insect resistance.

**Workability:** Can be difficult to work due to interlocked grain, resulting in tear-out. Wood with straight grain has better working characteristics. Glues and finishes well.

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Although there have been no adverse health effects associated with Nargusta, a number of other related species within the Terminalia genus have been reported to cause skin irritation. See the articles Wood Allergies and Toxicity and Wood Dust Safety for more information.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Furniture, cabinetry, turned objects, veneers, musical instruments, boatbuilding, and carving.

## *The Wood Details*

### **ZIRICOTE (CORDIA DODECANDRA)**

**Common Name(s):** Amapa Asta, Barl, Bocote, Bojon, Canaletta, Chackopte, Copite, Laurel, Negra, Siricote, Zac-copte, Ziricote



**Distribution:** Central America and Mexico

**Tree Size:** 30-65 ft (10-20 m) tall, 2-3 ft (.6-1.0 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 50 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (805 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .65, .81

**Janka Hardness:** 1,970 lb<sub>f</sub> (8,780 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 16,400 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (113.1 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 1,585,000 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (10.93 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 9,270 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (63.9 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 3.5%, Tangential: 6.7%, Volumetric: 9.8%, T/R Ratio: 1.9

**Colour/Appearance:** Colour ranges from medium to dark brown, sometimes with either a green or purple hue, with darker bands of black growth rings intermixed. Ziricote has a very unique appearance, which is sometimes referred to as "spider-webbing" or "landscape" grain

figure. Quarter-sawn surfaces can also have ray flakes similar in appearance to those found on quarter-sawn Hard Maple. The pale yellowish sapwood is sometimes incorporated into designs for aesthetic effect, or to cut down on wastage.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain is straight to slightly interlocked. Texture is medium to fine, with good natural lustre.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; solitary and radial multiples; large to very large pores in no specific arrangement, few; tyloses occasionally present; parenchyma vasicentric, confluent; wide rays, spacing normal to wide.

**Rot Resistance:** Ziricote is reported to be naturally resistant to decay.

**Workability:** Overall, Ziricote is fairly easy to work considering its high density. The wood tends to develop end and surface checks during drying, which can be problematic: though the wood is stable once dry. Also, pieces are usually available in narrow boards or turning squares, with sapwood being very common. Ziricote turns and finishes well, and in most instances, it can also be glued with no problems. (On rare occasions, the wood's natural oils can interfere with the gluing process.)

**Odour:** Ziricote has a mild, characteristic scent while being worked, somewhat similar to the smell of Pau Ferro.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Ziricote has been shown to cause cross reactions once an allergic sensitivity to certain woods has been developed. Woods that can cause initial sensitivity include: Pau Ferro, Macassar Ebony, Cocobolo, and most rosewoods.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Furniture, veneer, cabinetry, gunstocks, musical instruments (acoustic and electric guitars), turned objects, and other small specialty wood items.

**Comments:** A truly unique-looking wood, Ziricote has very few imitators; perhaps only the occasional piece of figured Brazilian Rosewood exhibits the same spider-webbing grain figure.

## *The Wood Details*

### **CHECHEN (METOPIUM BROWNEI)**

**Common Name(s):** Chechen, Chechem, Poisonwood, Black Poisonwood, Caribbean Rosewood



**Distribution:** Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, Guatemala, Belize, and South-Eastern Mexico

**Tree Size:** 50-115 ft. (15-35 m) tall, 3-5 ft. (1-1.5 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 62 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (990 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .78, .99

**Janka Hardness:** 2,250 lbf (10,010 N)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 4.1%, Tangential: 6.7%, Volumetric: 10.8%, T/R Ratio: 1.6

**Colour/Appearance:** Heartwood colour is highly varied, with red, orange, and brown contrasted with darker stripes of blackish brown. Colour tends to shift to a darker reddish brown with age. Well defined sapwood is a pale yellow

**Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually straight, but may be wild or interlocked with a uniform medium to fine texture and good natural lustre.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; medium to large pores in no specific arrangement; solitary and radial multiples of 2-4; tyloses and other heartwood deposits abundant; growth rings indistinct; rays not visible without lens; parenchyma vasicentric, and aliform (lozenge).

**Rot Resistance:** Rated as being very durable, and moderately resistant to most insect attacks.

**Workability:** Fairly easy to work, but tear-out may occur when machining pieces with interlocked grain. Glues and finishes well, though because of its density and tendency to split, **nails and screws should be pre-bored.**

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Chechen has been reported as a sensitizer. Usually most common reactions simply include eye and skin irritation.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Veneer, furniture, cabinetry, flooring, turned objects, and small specialty wood items.

**Comments:** Its alternate name, Black Poisonwood, comes from its toxic sap, which turns black and causes severe skin reactions similar to poison ivy—and both are classified in the same family: Anacardiaceæ. However, the wood itself is safe to handle, though there are some allergenic reactions associated with the wood dust.

Because of its density, natural lustre, and beautiful coloration, Chechen is sometimes referred to as Caribbean Rosewood, though it is not true rosewood in the Dalbergia genus.



## *The Wood Details*

### **BOCOTE (CORDIA ELAEGNOIDES)**

**Common Name(s):** Amapa asta, Bocote, Canaletta, Chackopte, Copite, Siricote blanco



**Distribution:** Mexico and Central/South America

**Tree Size:** 65-100 ft. (20-30 m) tall, 3-5 ft. (1-1.5 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 53 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (855 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .68, .85

**Janka Hardness:** 2,010 lbf (8,950 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 16,590 lbf/in<sup>2</sup> (114.4 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 1,767,000 lbf/in<sup>2</sup> (12.19 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 8,610 lbf/in<sup>2</sup> (59.4 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 4.0%, Tangential: 7.4%, Volumetric: 11.6%, T/R Ratio: 1.9

**Colour/Appearance:** Has a yellowish brown body with dramatic dark brown to almost black stripes. Colour tends to darken with age. Also, the grain patterning can be quite striking, particularly on flatsawn areas. It's not uncommon to see many "eyes" and other figuring in Bocote: though unlike knots, they do not seem to present any special challenges in machining.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain on most decorative pieces is usually figured in some way, and also tends to be interlocked, though pieces with plain and straight grain can also be found. Medium uniform texture and a naturally oily/waxy feel. Good natural luster.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; solitary and radial multiples; medium to large pores in no specific arrangement, few; tyloses and other mineral deposits (yellow/brown) common; parenchyma varies slightly between species, but is generally banded (marginal), as well as vasicentric, aliform (lozenge), and confluent; medium to wide rays, spacing normal to wide.

**Rot Resistance:** Heartwood is rated from moderately durable to very durable depending on the species; it is susceptible to insect attack.

**Workability:** Some species may contain silica that will dull cutters. On the whole, Bocote is easily worked and machined with good results. Although Bocote has a fairly high amount of natural oils present, gluing is usually problem-free. (See the article on gluing oily tropical hardwoods for more information.) Bocote also turns and finishes well.

**Odour:** Bocote has a moderate scent when being worked that resembles dill pickles.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Bocote has been shown to cause cross reactions once an allergic sensitivity to certain woods has been developed. Woods that can cause initial sensitivity include: Pau Ferro, Macassar Ebony, Cocobolo, and most Rosewoods.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Fine furniture, cabinetry, flooring, veneer, boatbuilding, musical instruments, gunstocks, turned objects, and other small specialty wood items.

**Comments:** With its striking, zebra-like contrasts, and bold figuring, Bocote can be a very eye-catching wood. Book matching two consecutive panels can create symmetrical “faces” and other patterns in the wood, (though a relatively thin-kerf blade should be used to minimize the shift of the pattern). Bocote is generally used for its aesthetic attributes, rather than its mechanical ones—and although Bocote is by no means weak, its strength-to-weight ratio is below average. (It is roughly as stiff and strong as Hard Maple, even though Bocote is considerably heavier)

## *The Wood Details*

### **MACACAUBA - GRENADILLO (PLATYMISCIUM YUCATANUM)**

**Common Name(s):** Coyote, Granadillo, Guayacan Trebol, Jacaranda Do Brejo, Orange Agate, Macacauba, Macawood, Trebal



**Distribution:** Central and South America

**Tree Size:** 65-80 ft. (20-25 m) tall, 2-3 ft. (.6-1.0 m) trunk diameter

**Average Dried Weight:** 59 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> (950 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .81, .95

**Janka Hardness:** 2,700 lbf (12,030 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:** 21,540 lbf/in<sup>2</sup> (148.6 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:** 2,837,000 lbf/in<sup>2</sup> (19.56 GPa)

**Crushing Strength:** 11,700 lbf/in<sup>2</sup> (80.7 MPa)

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 2.8%, Tangential: 4.2%, Volumetric: 7.2%, T/R Ratio: 1.5

**Colour/Appearance:** Heartwood colour can be highly variable, ranging from a bright red to a darker reddish or purplish brown, frequently with darker stripes. When the wood is referred to as "Hormigo," various suffixes are used to describe the heartwood colour: "Hormigo Negro" for darker pieces or "Hormigo Rojo" for orange-ish red pieces. Clearly demarcated sapwood is yellow to white.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain is straight to interlocked, with a medium to fine texture; high natural lustre.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; large pores in no specific arrangement; solitary and radial multiples of 2-3; heartwood mineral/gum deposits (yellow) occasionally present; growth rings indistinct; narrow rays not visible without lens, fairly close to close spacing; parenchyma lozenge, confluent, and banded (not marginal).

**Rot Resistance:** Heartwood is rated as durable to very durable regarding decay resistance, with good resistance to insect attacks as well.

**Workability:** Overall, good working characteristics for both hand and machine tools, though areas of interlocked grain should be approached with care to avoid tear-out; able to take a very high natural polish. Turns and glues well.

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Besides the standard health risks associated with any type of wood dust, no further health reactions have been associated with Macacauba.

**Sustainability:** Macacauba is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, although a single Costa Rican species, *Platymiscium pleiostachyum*, is listed as endangered. The species is estimated to have less than 2,500 mature individuals still living, and the population is estimated to continue to decline at least 20% over the next two generations. This species has been exploited for lumber in the past, but there's no indication that it's been exported internationally.

**Common Uses:** Furniture, cabinetry, veneer, musical instruments, turned objects, and small specialty wood items.

**Comments:** This wood goes by a number of common names, with none of them having a clear predominance. Macacauba or Macawood is usually used when referring to the lumber, while Hormigo is more commonly used for specialty applications such as turning or musical instruments. Orange Agate has also been used as a trade name to help sell the wood. The ambiguous name Granadillo is also sometimes applied to this wood (along with dozens of other species).

**WOODWORKING**

**SAMPLES**



**NARGUSTA DINING SET**



**MULTI-WOOD FINISHED CEILING (MACHICHE, TAMBRAN, GRANADILLO ETC.)**



**MAHOGANY DINING SET**



**BOCOTE CABINET**

**Belizean Hardwood**

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**GRANADILLO END TABLE**



**GRANADILLO DINING SET**



**ZIRICOTE COFFEE TABLE**



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