

African Mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*)

TRADE NAME

African Mahogany

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Khaya ivorensis A.Chev.

FAMILY

MELIACEAE

COMMON NAMES

Lagos mahogany (Nigeria); Takoradi Mahogany (Ghana); Acajou Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire); Acajou Bassam (France); African Mahogany (United Kingdom); Khaya Mahogany (Germany); Zaminguila (Gabon); Zamanguila (Equatorial Guinea); Caoba del Galon (Equatorial Guinea); N'Gollon (Cameroon); Undianunu (Angola); Zoele; Tiamatiamama; Samanguila; Red mahogany; Orkogho; Ogurano; Ogurango; Odupon; Odupod; Oduben; Ngollon; Ngollo; Munyama; Lukuma; Lokobua; Krubna; Krala; Kortghot; Khaya; Humpe; Houngo; Ekuie; Dupuin; Dukumakokre; Dukuma-dugura; Dukuma; Diburi; Biribu; Biribi; Bariba; African mahogany; Acajou rouge; Acajou blanc; Acajou bassam; Ogwango (Nigeria); Dukuma fufu (Ghana); Dubini (Ghana); Acajou d'Afrique (Côte d'Ivoire)

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Khaya klainei Pierre ex Pellegr.; *Khaya caudata* Stapf ex Hutch. & Dalz.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The tree reaches a height of more than 50 m. The bole is usually straight, clear and cylindrical to 30 m in length, buttressed. The trunk diameter attains 100 to 150 cm.

NATURAL HABITAT

Khaya ivorensis is found in various habitat types in West and Central Africa but is most abundant in wet undisturbed evergreen forest. Log export bans and legal protection exist in various countries. National conservation status in Cote d'Ivoire V, Liber

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

From Sierra Leone and Liberia to Gabon. It is distributed through coastal West Africa.

PLANTATIONS AVAILABLE?

Tested and planted in some African countries. In most cases, mixed plantations with other species (Niangon, Okoume, Bilinga). The duration of the rotation is 40 years, to reach 60 cm in diameter.

ODOR

Light and pleasant odor.

COLOR

The sapwood is creamy white to yellowish white, it has a thickness of 5 cm. The heartwood is pink to light red brown, it is clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine.

COLOR INDEX (1=BLACK, 7=LIGHT YELLOW,WHITE)

5

GRAIN

The grain is slightly but systematically interlocked.

TEXTURE

The wood is reported to be frequently medium textured.

LUSTER

The wood surface is described as low in luster.

NATURAL DURABILITY

Moderately durable to decay. Without preservative treatment, this species can be used only under risk of occasional re-humidification. It is not suited for uses with risks of permanent or long-lasting humidification. Sensible to termites attack. The heart

NATURAL DURABILITY INDEX (1= VERY HIGH DURABILITY, 7=VEY LOW DURABILITY)

3

INTERNAL GROWTH STRESSES

Residual stresses are reported to be absent.

SILICA CONTENT

Silica Content: It is reported to have a negligible amount of silica. Contents over 0.05% may affect wood processing. Silica Value: 0.03

RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION

Nearly impossible to treat with a too much low penetration of the preservative substances.