

# IROKO (*Milicia excelsa*)

## TRADE NAME

Iroko

## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Milicia excelsa* (Welw.) C.C.Berg

## FAMILY

MORACEAE

## COMMON NAMES

Semli (Sierra Leone); Semei (Sierra Leone); Rokko (Nigeria); Semli (Liberia); Semei (Liberia); Odum (Ghana); Iroko (Côte d'Ivoire); iroko (Benin); Kambala (Belgium); Molundu (Zaire); Mokongo (Zaire); Lusanga (Zaire); Kambala (Zaire); Mandji (Gabon); Abang (Gabon); Abang (Equatorial Guinea); Kambala (Congo); Abang (Cameroon); Mvuli (Uganda); Mvule (Uganda); Mvuli (Tanzania); Mvule (Tanzania); Mvuli (Kenya); Mvule (Kenya); Mvuli (Ethiopia); Mvule (Ethiopia); Tule (Mozambique); Mufala (Mozambique); Moreira (Angola); Vai; Ulundu; Uloko-mushinogbon; Ulok; Uklobce; Tule; Toumbohiro noir; Tema; Teak; Ssare; Simli; Sime; Semli; Semei; Sanga; Rokko; Roco; Rock elm; Oroko ulokoodigpe; Oroko; Olwaa; Olia; Ofryio; Oduna; Odum; Odoum; Odji; Obas tree; Ntong; Nsan; Mvule; Muvule; Mutumba; Mucoco; Muberry; Moreira; Moloundou; Mokongo; Mereira; Mbara; Mbala; Mandji; Mamangi; Lusanga; Loko; Logo asagu; Kimurumba; Kambala; Intule; Gutumba; Guh; Guele; Geh; Emang; Elui; Elua; Elowa; Corkwood; Bwagashanga; Bush teak; Bush oak; Bonzo; Bobang; Banghi; Bang; Bakana; Akede; Agui; African teak; African oak; Abang; Iroko

## SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

*Morus excelsa* Welw.; *Chlorophora excelsa* (Welw.) Benth.

# **DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE**

## **BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The tree is up to 30 to 48 m tall, with diameters up to 150 cm. The commercial lengths vary from 9 to 24 m.

## **NATURAL HABITAT**

*Milicia excelsa* is widespread at altitudes below 1,000 m, it grows under a variety of conditions. It is known or inferred that the harvesting of specimens from the wild for international trade has, or may have, a detrimental impact on the species by EITHE

## **NATURAL DISTRIBUTION**

It is widespread in tropical and subtropical Africa.

## **NON TIMBER USES**

Contains some resins or extracts which could pose problems when machining or finishing.

## **COLOR**

The sapwood is yellowish white, it has a thickness of 5 to 7.5 cm. The heartwood is yellow brown to dark brown, it is clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine.

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

5

## **GRAIN**

Straight or slightly interlocked, sometimes with an influence on further processing operations.

## **TEXTURE**

The texture is typically medium to coarse.

## **LUSTER**

Luster is usually low.

## **NATURAL DURABILITY**

Because of variable resistance to decay, this species can be only considered as durable to decay; it can be utilized without preservative treatment for exterior joinery or similar uses. Resistant to termites attack. Heartwood is resistant to Lyctus attack

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

2

## **INTERNAL GROWTH STRESSES**

No residual growth stresses are found.

## **SILICA CONTENT**

Silica Content: Silica content is negligible. Amounts over 0.05% may affect wood processing. Silica Value: 0.01

## **RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION**

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