

African Walnut (*Lovoa trichilioides*)

TRADE NAME

Dibétou

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Lovoa trichilioides Harms

FAMILY

MELIACEAE

COMMON NAMES

Wnaimeï (Sierra Leone); Apopo (Nigeria); Noyer d'Afrique (France); Noyer du Gabon (France); Noyer d'Afrique (France); Congowood (United States of America); Tigerwood (United States of America); Tigerwood (United Kingdom); African walnut (United Kingdom); Embero (Equatorial Guinea); Nivero (Equatorial Guinea); Bombulu (Zaire); Lifaki-muindu (Zaire); Eyan (Gabon); Bibolo (Cameroon); Anamenila (Nigeria); Sida (Nigeria); Apolo (Nigeria); Mpengwa (Ghana); Dubini-biri (Ghana); Dibetou (Côte d'Ivoire)

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Lovoa pynaertii De Wild.; *Lovoa klaineana* Pierre ex Sprague

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The tree reaches a height of 50 m, with trunk diameters of 100 cm. The bole is usually straight, clear and cylindrical to 20 to 30 m in length, with short buttresses.

NATURAL HABITAT

Lovoa trichilioides occurs in evergreen and deciduous forest, generally in moist sites. Regeneration occurs only in canopy gaps. National conservation status in Cote d'Ivoire V, Liberia E. It is known or inferred that the harvesting of specimens from the

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

West Africa, from Sierra Leone to Gabon.

COLOR

The sapwood is light grey to light yellow, it has a thickness of up to 7 cm. The heartwood is grey-brown to yellow-brown, sometimes with dark veins, it is clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine.

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

2

GRAIN

It has highly interlocked grain; special care is needed when drying because of frequent risks of distortion.

TEXTURE

Texture is reported to be fine to medium.

LUSTER

The wood surface is described as low in luster.

NATURAL DURABILITY

Slightly durable to decay. This species needs preservative treatment for uses with risks of occasional re-humidification. It is not suited for uses with risks of permanent or long-lasting humidification. Sensible to termites attack. The heartwood is resistant.

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

6

INTERNAL GROWTH STRESSES

Residual growth stresses are absent.

RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION

Difficult to treat with only a low penetration of the preservative products.