

Opepe (*Nauclea diderrichii*)

TRADE NAME

Bilinga, Opepi

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Nauclea diderrichii Merr.

FAMILY

RUBIACEAE

COMMON NAMES

Bundui (Sierra Leone); Opepi (Nigeria); Opepi (United Kingdom); N'Gulu-Maza (Zaire); Bonkangu (Zaire); Aloma (Gabon); Bilinga (Equatorial Guinea); N'Gulu-Maza (Congo); Mokessé (Congo); Linzi (Congo); Kilu (Central African Republic); Gulu-maza (Angola); Wei-yidi; Urherekor; Uburu; Toumbo; Tebotue; Sukisia; Sibo; Owoso; Owessu; Odosi; Obiache; Nguebe; N`gulu; Mtoma; Moukonja; Mokesse; Mamoundi; Linzi; Kusiabo; Kusiabe; Kusiaba; Kusia papa; Kilu; Kantate; Issoula; Ikaka; Gulumanzi; Gulu; Groussou; Gluu; Etinda; Eridinda; Ekusiawa; Eke; Edjin; Echinchin; Dunkake; Dubawile; Doe-yah; Brimstone; Bosima; Bosema; Bonkese; Bonkangu; Bohia; Bedo; Awesu; Asibo; Aloua; Abouko; N`Gulu-maza (Zaire); Opepe (United Kingdom); Engolo (Angola); Kilingi (Uganda); N`gulu-maza (Democratic Republic of Congo); Bilinga (Gabon); Aloma (Equatorial Guinea); Akondoc (Cameroon); Opepe (Nigeria); Kusia (Ghana); Badi (Côte d'Ivoire)

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Sarcocephalus trillesii Pierre; *Sarcocephalus diderrichii* De Wild.; *Nauclea trillesii* (Pierre) Merr.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The tree reaches a height of 50 m. The bole is clear, unbuttressed, cylindrical, and straight, from 26 to 32 m in length. The trunk diameter attains 100 up to 200 cm.

NATURAL HABITAT

Nauclea diderrichii is a widespread species. It occurs over a wide range of habitats, and is often found in pure stands.

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

West, Central and East Africa, from Sierra Leone to Uganda and Angola.

PLANTATIONS AVAILABLE?

It is a long rotation species for plantation. The duration of the rotation is 30 to 40 years, to reach 50 cm in diameter.

COLOR

The sapwood is whitish to pale yellow, it has a thickness of 5 cm. The heartwood is yellow to orange yellow, it is clearly demarcated.

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

5

GRAIN

The grain is highly and systematically interlocked; special care is needed when drying because of frequent risks of distortion.

TEXTURE

The wood is typically medium in texture.

NATURAL DURABILITY

Very durable to decay; without preservative treatment. This species is especially suited for all the uses with risks of permanent or long-lasting humidification. Resistant to termites attack. Heartwood is resistant to Lyctus attacks.

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

1

INTERNAL GROWTH STRESSES

No residual stresses are reported in this species.

SILICA CONTENT

Silica Content: It is reported to have a negligible amount of silica. Contents over 0.05% may affect wood processing. Silica Value: 0.01

RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION

Moderately easy to treat with a partial penetration of the preservative products.