

Elae (Piptadeniastrum africanum)

TRADE NAME

Dabema

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Piptadeniastrum africanum Brenan

FAMILY

LEGUMINOSAE

COMMON NAMES

Mbele (Sierra Leone); Guli (Sierra Leone); Beyae (Guinea); Odan (Ghana); Elae (Ghana); Dabema (Côte d'Ivoire); Odan (United Kingdom); Elae (United Kingdom); Ekhimi (United Kingdom); Agboin (United Kingdom); N'singa (Congo); Kougou (Central African Republic); N'singa (Angola); Wunga; To; Singa; Sanga; Redwood; Odanwoma; Odannan; Odane; Odan; Nga; N-go; Mussasae; Musese; Mugeye; Mbele-guli; Kougou; Ka-bari; K-kuperb; Jondo; Itoumb?; Gau; Erundu; Eran; Elany; Elae; Ekhivi; Dubima; Dane; Dandad; Chen; Bokungo; Bokundu; Bi-eh; Banzu; Akasanumu; Agbion; African greenheart; Bokungu (Zaire); N'inga (Angola); N'singa (Congo); Toum (Gabon); Tom (Equatorial Guinea); Atui (Cameroon); Mbeli (Liberia); Ekhimi (Nigeria); Agboin (Nigeria); Dahoma (Ghana); Debema (Côte d'Ivoire); Bukundu (Netherlands); Ekhim (United Kingdom); Dahoma (United Kingdom); Mpewere (Uganda); Likundu (Zaire); Dabema

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Piptadenia africana Hook. f.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The tree reaches a height of 26 to 32 m, with trunk diameters up to 130 cm. The bole is cylindrical, straight, and slightly buttressed.

NATURAL HABITAT

Piptadeniastrum africanum is found in rain forest and transitional formations, often as a solitary emergent tree in farmland and secondary bush.

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

West, Central and East Africa, from Senegal to Angola and Uganda.

ODOR

Unpleasant odor of ammoniac.

COLOR

The sapwood is light color, it has a thickness of 5 or more cm. The heartwood is light brown to yellow-brown, it is clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine (barely visible).

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

This wood has a somewhat coarse texture.

LUSTER

This wood is frequently 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. Resistant to termites attack. The heart

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

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INTERNAL GROWTH STRESSES

This species is reported to have growth stresses.

SILICA CONTENT

Silica Content: Negligible content of silica is reported. Amounts over 0.05% may affect wood processing. Silica Value: 0

RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION

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