

White Longui (*Gambeya africana*)

TRADE NAME

Longhi

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gambeya africana Pierre

FAMILY

SAPOTACEAE

COMMON NAMES

Bopambu (Zaire); Longhi (Congo); Mbebame (Gabon); Abam (Cameroon); Anandio (Côte d'Ivoire); Aninguéri rouge (Côte d'Ivoire); Akatio (Côte d'Ivoire); Longui rouge (Congo)

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Chrysophyllum africanum Baker

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The tree may reach a height of 30 m. The bole is up to 13 m in length, straight, but usually fluted, with low buttresses. The trunk diameter may be up to 130 cm.

NATURAL HABITAT

Gambeya africana occurs in rain forests and transitional formations.

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

West, Central Africa, from Sierra Leone to Angola

COLOR

The sapwood is paler than heartwood. The heartwood is pinkish brown to yellow-brown, it is not clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine (barely visible).

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

4

GRAIN

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

TEXTURE

Texture is usually 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. The heartwood is moderately resistant to termites attack.

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

6

INTERNAL GROWTH STRESSES

No residual growth stresses are found.

SILICA CONTENT

Silica Content: Negligible contents of silica are found in timber of this species. Amounts over 0.05% may affect the wood processing. Silica Value: 0.01

RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION

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