Tchitola (Oxystigma oxyphyllum)

TRADE NAME

Tchitola

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Oxystigma oxyphyllum J.Leon.

FAMILY

LEGUMINOSAE

COMMON NAMES

Lolagbola (Nigeria); M'babou (Gabon); Tshibudimbu tshikunze; Tola walnut; Tola noir; Tola mafula; Tola chimfuta; Tntubudimbu; Tntie budimbu; Red tola; Mushilu mukunze; Mushili mukunze; Mbabou; Lolagbola; Emolo; Emoli; Tola mafuta (Angola); Tola chinfuta (Angola); Akwakwa (Zaire); Tschibudimbu (Zaire); Kitola (Congo); Tchitola (Congo); M`Babou (Gabon); Emola (Gabon)

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Pterygopodium oxyphyllum Harms; Prioria oxyphylla (Harms) Breteler; Oxymitra oxyphyllum (Harms) J. Leonard

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The tree reaches a height of 50 m. The bole is cylindrical, straight, clear to 23 m in length and unbuttressed. The trunk diameter are often 70 to 100 cm, sometimes even up to 200 cm.

NATURAL HABITAT

Oxystigma oxyphyllum occurs in equatorial Africa, usually in dense mixed formations, along river and lake shores.

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

West Africa, from Nigeria to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

NON TIMBER USES

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

COLOR

The sapwood is pink white, it has a thickness of up to 25 cm. The heartwood is reddish brown with dark rings, it is clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine.

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

4

GRAIN

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

TEXTURE

The wood is reported to have a coarse texture.

LUSTER

The wood is described as 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. Moderately resistant to termites attack

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

3

INTERNAL GROWTH STRESSES

No residual growth stresses are found.

RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION

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