Tropical olive (Guibourtia arnoldiana)

TRADE NAME
Mutenye

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Guibourtia arnoldiana J.Leon.

FAMILY
LEGUMINOSAE

COMMON NAMES
Tropical oliver (United Kingdom); Benzi (Congo); M'penze (Angola); Tropical oliver; Oliver walnut; Ntene; Non-eyen; M`benge; Libenge; Kouan; Kerazingo; Essingang; Bubinga; Olive walnut (United Kingdom); M`penze (Angola); Mbenge (Zaire); Mutenye (Zaire); Benge (Zaire)

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS
Copaifera arnoldiana Th. & H. Dur.; Copaiba arnoldiana De Wild. & T. Durand; Copaiba arnoldiana De Wild. & Th. Dur.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION
The tree reaches a height of 50 m. The bole is generally low buttressed, and occasionally fluted, up to 20 m in length. The trunk diameter attains about 120 to 150 cm.

NATURAL HABITAT

Guibourtia arnoldiana occurs in evergreen and deciduous forests.

COLOR

The sapwood is greyish white, it has a thickness of 5 to 8 cm. The heartwood is yellowish brown to brown, with dark striping or reddish tinge, it is clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine.

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

3

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

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

Residual stresses are reported to be absent.

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

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