Afzelia (Afzelia pachyloba)

TRADE NAME

Doussié

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Afzelia pachyloba Harms

FAMILY

LEGUMINOSAE

COMMON NAMES

Pau conta (Guinea-Bissau); Afzelia (United States of America); Afzelia (Germany); N'kokongo (Congo); M'banga (Cameroon); N'kokongo (Angola); Azodau (Côte d`Ivoire); Lingue (Côte d`Ivoire); N`kokongo (Congo); Doussie (Cameroon); M`banga (Cameroon); N`kokongo (Angola); Uvala (Angola); Bolengu (Zaire); Chanfuta (United States of America); Afzelia (United Kingdom); Mkora (Tanzania); Mbembakofi (Tanzania); Kpendei (Sierra Leone); Lingue (Senegal); Chanfuta (Portugal); Apa (Nigeria); Aligna (Nigeria); Mussacossa (Mozambique); Chanfuta (Mozambique); Pauconta (Guinea-Bissau); Papao (Ghana)

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Afzelia zenkeri Harms; Afzelia caudata Hoyle; Afzelia brieyi De Wild.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

It reaches heights of 26 to 40 m, with a diameter up to 100 to 170 cm and more. The boles are clear, up to 10 to 16 m in length. Large irregular buttresses are sometimes present.

NATURAL HABITAT

Afzelia pachyloba occurs in dense evergreen forests. The tree reaches its best development on moist sites. It is known or inferred that the harvesting of specimens from the wild for international trade has, or may have, a detrimental impact on the species

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

West and Central Africa, from Guinea to Angola.

COLOR

The sapwood is whitish to pale yellow, it has a thickness of 2 to 5 cm. The heartwood is reddish brown, it is clearly demarcated.

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

6

GRAIN

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

TEXTURE

The wood is typically coarse 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

Residual stresses are reported to be absent.

RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION

Nearly impossible to treat with a too much low penetration of the preservative substances.