

Otabo (*Gossweilerodendron balsamiferum*)

TRADE NAME

Tola

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gossweilerodendron balsamiferum Harms

FAMILY

LEGUMINOSAE

COMMON NAMES

Otabo (Nigeria); Agba (Nigeria); Otabo (United Kingdom); Agba (United Kingdom); Tola branca (Germany); Agba (Germany); Tola (Zaire); N'tola (Zaire); Emolo (Gabon); Tola (Congo); N'tola (Congo); Sinedon (Cameroon); White tola; Tshibudimbu tshitoke; Pink mahogany; Okimeten; Ntola; Nigerian cedar; Mutsekamambole; Mushilu mutoke; Mupaka; Mpere; Mpele; Moboron; Mboron; Loshi-erin; Emonga; Ditchipi; Dembo; Boana; Agbara; Achi-aro; Achi; N`tola (Zaire); Tola branca (Angola); Tola blanc (Zimbabwe); Tola blanc (Congo); Emongi (Nigeria); Egba (Nigeria); Agba; Tola

SCIENTIFIC NAME SYNONYMS

Pterygopodium balsamiferum Vermeesen

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The tree reaches a height of more than 50 m, with trunk diameters up to 170 or even 200 cm. The bole is clear and straight to 26 to 30 m in length and more.

NATURAL HABITAT

Gossweilerodendron balsamiferum grows in mature little-disturbed lowland rainforest. 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 by EITHER. Exceeding

NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

West and Central 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.

ODOR

Peppered odor.

COLOR

The sapwood is whitish, it has a thickness of 10 cm. The heartwood is pinkish yellow-brown, darkening on exposure, it is not clearly demarcated. The silver figure is fine.

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

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GRAIN

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

TEXTURE

The texture is typically medium to coarse.

LUSTER

It is reported to be low in luster.

NATURAL DURABILITY

Because of its variable resistance it is considered as moderately durable to decay. Without treatment, it can be used when risks of occasional re-humidification; it is not suited for uses with risks of permanent or long-lasting humidification. Sensible to

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

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