# **MERBAU**

Family: FABACEAE-CAESALPINIOIDEAE (angiosperm)

Scientific name(s): Intsia bijuga

Afzelia bijuga (synonymous)

Intsia palembanica

Commercial restriction: no commercial restriction

# WOOD DESCRIPTION

Color: brown Sapwood: clearly demarcated Texture: coarse

Grain: straight or interlocked

Interlocked grain: slight

# LOG DESCRIPTION

Diameter: from 60 to 120 cm

Thickness of sapwood: from 5 to

Floats: no

Log durability: no information available

8 cm

Note: Heartwood orangey brown becoming dark red brown or dark brown with light. Presence of yellow sulphur deposits.

### PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

#### MECHANICAL AND ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES

Physical and mechanical properties are based on mature heartwood specimens. These properties can vary greatly depending on origin and growth conditions.

	Mean	Std dev.		Mean	Std dev.		
Specific gravity *:	0.83	0.05	Crushing strength *:	74 MPa	6 MPa		
Monnin hardness *:	8.8	2.3	Static bending strength *:	115 MPa	13 MPa		
Coeff. of volumetric shrinkage:	0.39 %	0.06 %	Modulus of elasticity *:	15440 MPa	2269 MPa		
Total tangential shrinkage (TS):	4.4 %	0.9 %					
Total radial shrinkage (RS):	2.7 %	0.7 %	(*: at 12% moisture content, with 1 MPa = 1 N/mm <sup>2</sup> )				
TS/RS ratio:	1.6						
Fiber saturation point:	24 %		Musical quality factor:	133.9 measure	d at 2397 Hz		
Stability: s	table						

# NATURAL DURABILITY AND TREATABILITY

Fungi and termite resistance refers to end-uses under temperate climate. Except for special comments on sapwood, natural durability is based on mature heartwood. Sapwood must always be considered as non-durable against wood degrading agents. E.N. = Euro Norm

Funghi (according to E.N. standards):	class 1-2 - very durable to durable
Dry wood borers:	class D - durable (sapwood demarcated, risk limited to sapwood)
Termites (according to E.N. standards):	class M - moderately durable
Treatability (according to E.N. standards):	class 4 - not permeable
Use class ensured by natural durability:	class 4 - in ground or fresh water contact
Species covering the use class 5:	no
	This species is listed in the European standard NF EN 350-2. It covers the use class 4, but presents a variable durability towards marine borers; its use under sea water is not recommended. Resistance to termites varies from "moderately durable" to "durable". According to the European standard NF EN 335, performance length might be modified by the intensity of end-use exposition.

#### **REQUIREMENT OF A PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT**

Against dry wood borer attacks: does not require any preservative treatment

In case of risk of temporary humidification: does not require any preservative treatment

In case of risk of permanent humidification: does not require any preservative treatment

# MERBAU

## DRYING

Drying rate:	slow Possible drying schedule: 5					
Risk of distortion:	slight risk	Temperature (°C)				
Risk of casehardening:	no	M.C. (%)	dry-bulb	wet-bulb	Air humidity (%)	
Risk of checking:	slight risk	30	42	41	94	
Risk of collapse:	no	25	42	39	82	
	Requires care in order to avoid surface cracks for thick boards.	20	48	43	74	
		15	48	43	74	

This schedule is given for information only and is applicable to thickness lower or equal to 38 mm. It must be used in compliance with the code of practice. For thickness from 38 to 75 mm, the air relative humidity should be increased by 5 % at each step. For thickness over 75 mm, a 10 % increase should be considered.

#### **SAWING AND MACHINING**

 Blunting effect:
 fairly high

 Sawteeth recommended:
 stellite-tipped

 Cutting tools:
 tungsten carbide

 Peeling:
 no information available

 Slicing:
 good

 Note:
 Sawblades tend to clog. Tendency to tearing on quartersawns. Variable silica content.

### ASSEMBLING

Nailing / screwing: good but pre-boring necessary

Gluing: correct

Note: Tends to split when nailing.

### **COMMERCIAL GRADING**

Appearance grading for sawn timbers: According to MGR grading rules (2009) Possible grading: Prime, Select, Standard, Serviceable, Utility

# **FIRE SAFETY**

Conventional French grading: Thickness > 14 mm : M3 (moderately inflammable) Thickness < 14 mm : M4 (easily inflammable)

Euroclasses grading: D s2 d0

Default grading for solid wood, according to requirements of European standard EN 14081-1 annex C (April 2009). It concerns structural graded timber in vertical uses with mean density upper 0.35 and thickness upper 22 mm.

## **END-USES**

Current furniture or furniture components Interior panelling Interior joinery Heavy carpentry Cabinetwork (high class furniture) Turned goods Tool handles (resilient woods) Bridges (parts in contact with water or ground) Stairs (inside) Sleepers Sculpture Ship building (planking and deck) Flooring Exterior joinery Industrial or heavy flooring Sliced veneer Poles Wood-ware Hydraulic works (fresh water) Bridges (parts not in contact with water or ground) Musical instruments Vehicle or container flooring Cooperage Boxes and crates

# **MERBAU**

# MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Country Australia Fiji Magadascar Malaysia (islands) Papua New Guinea Philippines Vietnam

Local name KWILAU VESI HINTSY MERBAU KWILA IPIL LAUT GONUOC

Country China Indonesia Peninsular Malaysia New Caledonia Philippines Thailand

Local name KALABAU MERBAU MIRABOW KOHU IPIL LUM-PAW



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