MERBAU



1 of 2

FABACEAE-CAESALPINIOIDEAE (angiosperm)

Scientific name(s): Intsia bijuga

Afzelia bijuga (synonymous)

Intsia palembanica

Commercial restriction: no commercial restriction

WOOD DESCRIPTION

LOG DESCRIPTION

Color:brownDiameter:23 – 47 inchesSapwood:clearly demarcatedThickness of Sapwood:1.9–3.14 inches

Texture: coarse Floats: r

Grain: straight or interlocked Log Durability: no information available

Interlocked Grain: slight

Note: Heartwood is orangey brown becoming dark red brown or dark

brown. Presence of yellow Sulphur deposits.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

MECHANICAL/ACOUSTIC

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

MeanStd. Dev.MeanSpecific Gravity*:0.830.05Crushing Strength*:10,732 lbfJanka Hardness (lbs):1,840Static Bending Strength*:16,679 lbf

Janka Hardness (lbs):1,840Static Bending Strength*: 16,679 lbfVolumetric Shrinkage:0.39%0.06%Modulus of Elasticity*:2,239,382 lbfTotal Tangential Shrinkage (TS):4.4%0.9%

Total Radial Shrinkage (RS): 2.7% 0.7% **Musical Quality Factor:** 133.9 measured at 2397 Hz

TS/RS Ratio: 1.6

Fiber Saturation Point: 24% *At 12% moisture content.

Stability: stable

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: 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

Note:

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. According to the European standard NF EN 335, performance length might be modified by the intensity of enduse 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
Risk of Distortion: slight risk
Risk of Casehardening: no
Risk of Checking: slight risk
Risk of Collapse: no

Note: Requires care in order to avoid surface cracks for thick boards.

Possible Drying Schedule: 5

Temperature (*F)			
M.C. (%)	Dry-Bulb	Wet-Bulb	Air Humidity (%)
30	107.6	105.8	94
25	107.6	102.2	82
20	118.4	109.4	74
15	118.4	109.4	74

Tomporature (0E)

This schedule is given for information only and is applicable to thickness lower or equal to 1.5 in. It must be used in compliance with the code of practice. For thickness from 1.5 to 3 in, the air relative humidity should be increased by 5% at each step. For thickness over 3 in, a 10% increase should be considered.

SAWING AND MACHINING

ASSEMBLING

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.

Nailing / screwing: good but pre-boring necessary

Gluing: correct **Note:** Tends to split when nailing.

END-USES

Furniture or Furniture Components Interior Paneling

Interior/Exterior joinery Heavy carpentry

Cabinetwork
Turned goods

Tool handles (resilient woods)

Bridges (parts in contact with ground or water)

Stairs (interior) Sleepers Sculpture

Ship building (planking and deck)

Flooring

Industrial or heavy flooring

Sliced veneer

Poles

Country Local Name Australia Kwilau Fiji Vesi Madagascar Hintsy Malaysia Merbau **Philippines** Ipil Laut, Ipil **Vietnam** Gonuoc China Kalabau Indonesia Merbau **Thailand** Lum-Paw

MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Works Cited:

CIRAD'S *Biomass, Wood, Energy, Bioproducts Research Unit (BioWooEB) Meier, E. (2015),* Wood, United States of America