

# CEIBA

Technical Wood Sheet (Ceiba spp.)

**Family:** Malvaceae | **Continent:** Africa

**Botanical Name(s):** Ceiba pentandra, Bombax pentandrum (synonymous), Ceiba thoningii (synonymous).

**CITES:** This species is not listed in the CITES Appendices (Washington Convention 2023). Notes. The species Ceiba pentandra is found in Latin America under the name "Sumauma".



## DESCRIPTION OF LOGS

Diameter	From 70 to 150 cm
Thickness of sapwood	-
Floats	Yes
Log durability	Low (treatment necessary)

## DESCRIPTION OF WOOD

Colour reference	Creamy white
Sapwood	Not demarcated
Texture	Coarse
Grain	Interlocked
Interlocked grain	Slight

**Notes:** Logs must be treated, extracted, sawn and dried as soon as possible after felling. Some logs are not floatable. Wood cream white to light yellow, often with greyish veins.

## PHYSICS AND MECHANICS

Values for mature wood at 12% moisture content. 1 MPa = 1 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

Property	Avg. value
Specific gravity	0.32
Monnin hardness	0.8
Coef. volumetric shrinkage	0.36 % / %
Total tangential shrinkage (St)	6.3 %
Total radial shrinkage (Sr)	3.0 %
Ratio St/Sr	2.1
Fibre saturation point	34 %
Thermal conductivity (λ)	0.12 W/(m.K)
Lower heating value	19,090 kJ/kg
Crushing strength	22 MPa
Static bending strength	36 MPa
Modulus of elasticity	5,130 MPa

## NATURAL DURABILITY & PRESERVATION

Resistance to fungi	Class 5 — not durable
Dry wood borers	Class S — susceptible (risk in all the wood)
Resistance to termites	Class S — susceptible
Treatability	Class 1 — easily permeable
Use class	Class 1 — inside (no dampness)

## PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT REQUIREMENT

Against dry wood borers	Requires appropriate preservative treatment
Temp. humidification	Requires appropriate preservative treatment
Perm. humidification	Use not recommended

## SAWING AND MACHINING

Blunting effect	Normal
Sawteeth recommended	Ordinary or alloy steel
Cutting tools	Ordinary
Peeling / Slicing	Good / interest

**Notes:** Fuzzy surface. Keep sharp tools to obtain a better finish.

## ASSEMBLING

Nailing and screwing	Poor
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## COMMERCIAL GRADING

Appearance grading for sawn timbers. SATA grading rules are infrequently applied due to specific technological properties and uses of this species. Visual grading for structural applications No visual grading for structural applications

## DRYING

Drying rate	Normal to slow
Risk of distortion	Slight risk
Risk of casehardening	No known specific risk
Risk of checking	Slight risk
Risk of collapse	No known specific risk

**Notes:** A rather slow drying is recommended due to the important moisture content when green.

## FIRE SAFETY

Thickness > 14 mm	M3 (mod. inflammable)
Thickness < 14 mm	M4 (easily inflammable)
Euroclasses grading	hors classement

## MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Benin	Adjolohutin / Hutin
Cameroon	Bouma / Doum
Central African Republic	Gila
Congo	Fuma
Côte d'Ivoire	Énia / Fromager
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Fuma
France (importated tropical timber)	Fromager
Gabon	Odouma
Germany (importated tropical timber)	Ceiba
Ghana	Ceiba / Onyina
Liberia	Ghe
Netherlands (importated tropical timber)	Kakantrie
Nigeria	Araba / Okha
Sierra Leone	Banda / Ngwe
United Kingdom (importated tropical timber)	Ceiba
United States of America (importated tropical timber)	Silk

## END-USES

Blockboard

Boxes and crates

Current furniture or furniture components

Insulation

