

ILOMBA

Technical Wood Sheet (*Pycnanthus* spp.)

Family: Myristicaceae | **Continent:** Africa
Botanical Name(s): *Pycnanthus angolensis*, *Pycnanthus kombo* (synonymous).
CITES: This species is not listed in the CITES Appendices (Washington Convention 2023).



DESCRIPTION OF LOGS

Diameter	From 60 to 80 cm
Thickness of sapwood	-
Floats	Yes
Log durability	Low (treatment necessary)

DESCRIPTION OF WOOD

Colour reference	Pinkish brown
Sapwood	Not demarcated
Texture	Coarse
Grain	Straight
Interlocked grain	Absent

Notes: Possible presence of brittleheart. Strong tendency to shakes. Wood pinkish brown to light brown.

PHYSICS AND MECHANICS

Values for mature wood at 12% moisture content. 1 MPa = 1 N/mm²

Property	Avg. value
Specific gravity	0.49
Monnin hardness	1.4
Coef. volumetric shrinkage	0.39 % / %
Total tangential shrinkage (St)	8.6 %
Total radial shrinkage (Sr)	4.6 %
Ratio St/Sr	1.9
Fibre saturation point	33 %
Thermal conductivity (λ)	0.17 W/(m.K)
Lower heating value	18,030 kJ/kg
Crushing strength	38 MPa
Static bending strength	63 MPa
Modulus of elasticity	10,130 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: Quartersawn recommended in order to reduce the risks of distortion during drying.

ASSEMBLING

Nailing and screwing	Poor
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COMMERCIAL GRADING

Appearance grading for sawn timbers. According to the ATIBT grading rules (2017), the main choices are: FAS (First And Second), n°1 Common and select, n°2 Common (see details of these rules on the ATIBT website). Visual grading for structural applications According to French standard NF B 52-001-1 (2018), strength class D24 can be provided by visual grading.

DRYING

Drying rate	Normal
Risk of distortion	High risk
Risk of casehardening	No known specific risk
Risk of checking	High risk
Risk of collapse	Yes

Notes: Drying is difficult for thickness > 54 mm. Steaming strongly recommended before kiln drying (T = 95°C, Humidity = 100 %) during 48 hours.

FIRE SAFETY

Thickness > 14 mm	M3 (mod. inflammable)
Thickness < 14 mm	M4 (easily inflammable)
Euroclasses grading	D-s2, d0

MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Angola	Ilomba
Benin	Jaja
Cameroon	Éteng
Central African Republic	Gélé
Congo	Ilomba
Côte d'Ivoire	Walélé
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ilomba / Lifondo / Lolako
Equatorial Guinea	Calabo
Gabon	Éteng
Ghana	Otie
Nigeria	Akomu
Sierra Leone	Kpoyei
United Kingdom (importated tropical timber)	Pycnantu s

END-USES

- Blockboard
- Boxes and crates
- Current furniture or furniture components
- Exterior panelling
- Interior joinery
- Interior panelling
- Moulding
- Pencils
- Rolling shutters
- Veneer for back or face of plywood
- Veneer for interior of plywood