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JATOBA

Family
Caesalpiniaceae

Other Names
Jatai, Jutai, Jutai açu, Jutai roxo, Algarrobo, Courbaril, Locust, Azucar-huayo, Rode lokus

Scientific Names
Hymenaea courbaril, Hymenaea intermedia, Hymenaea martiana, Hymenaea oblongifolia, Hymenaea parvifolia

Source
South and Central America

Wood Appearance
The wood can vary from purple brown or orangey brown to red brown slightly veined. The sapwood is clearly demarcated. The grain is straight or interlocked and the texture is medium. Density at 12 % moisture content: 0.94 g/cm^3.

Working Properties
The blunting effect is fairly high; peeling is not recommended or without interest and slicing is reported to be good. Due to hardness, the use of satellite is recommended for industrial production. Nailing is good but pre-boring is necessary. Gluing is correct for interior only. Gluing must be done with care (very dense wood). It dries normal and initial air drying under cover prior to kiln drying is recommended. Risks of cracks more or less important according to specific gravity.

Durability
Jatoba is durable to moderately durable to fungi and is durable to dry wood borers; sapwood demarcated (risk limited to sapwood). Resistance to fungi and to termites is variable according to the species.

Uses
Jatoba can be used for several applications:
- interior: e.g. panelling, flooring, veneer, high class furniture, musical instruments, wood-ware, stairs
- exterior: e.g. ship building, wood frame house

End-uses under permanent humidification (contact with water or with ground) are possible with the species presenting a very good durability.

References
- CIRAD Forestry Department