



PALETO

Family

Caesalpiniaceae

Other Names

Jutahy, Come negro, Tamarindo, Ironwood

Scientific Names

Dialium guianensis, Arouna divaricata (synonymous), Arouna guianensis (synonymous),
Dialium acuminatum

Source

South and Central America

Wood Appearance

The heartwood is reddish brown and the sapwood is pale yellow. The grain is reported to be interlocked and the texture is medium.

Working Properties

The wood is very difficult to saw and work with hand tools due to a very high content of silica (Silica content reported to be as high as 1.83 %), difficult to plane due to silica content and hardness (HM steel knives is reported to do the job well), good for turning and mortising, excellent for boring, moulding and sanding but nailing the wood is practically impossible. To work with this species it is necessary to use tools reinforced with either stellite or tungsten carbide steel.

The finish is excellent and because of the woods natural beauty it is recommendable to use a transparent finish.

The wood is moderately easy to air dry as well as kiln dry, it dries very slowly and develops moderate defects. In order to prevent defects during kiln drying, it is recommendable to use kiln schedules T3- C2 and T3- C1 for 1 and 2 inch boards respectively.

Durability

It is a very durable wood, very resistant to decay fungi, termite attacks and shipworm attacks under tropical conditions without treatment.

Uses

Paleto can be used for several applications:

- interior: e.g. industrial flooring
- exterior: e.g. posts, railroad beams, outdoor furniture, veneer, heavy constructions, outdoor decking

References

- CIRAD Forestry Department