



**USDA Forest Service
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Wood Technology Transfer Fact Sheet

Aucoumea klaineana

Okoume

Family: Burseraceae

Other Common Names: Gaboon (U.K.), Angouma, Moukoumi, N'Koumi (Gabon).

Distribution: Confined to Gabon, Rio Muni, and Congo-Brazzaville; rather common, and extensively planted within its natural range.

The Tree: Reaches a height of 100 to 130 ft, sometimes to 200 ft, boles cylindrical and clear to 70 ft and more; trunk diameters 3 to 8 ft over large buttresses.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood salmon pink to light pinkish brown; sapwood narrow, whitish or pale gray, not clearly demarcated from heartwood. Texture medium, grain straight, shallowly interlocked, sometimes wavy; sometimes lustrous; without characteristic odor or taste. Silica content of about 0.12 to 0.16% is reported.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.37; air-dry density 28 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

Moisture content Bending strength Modulus of elasticity Maximum crushing strength

(%) (Psi) (1,000 psi) (Psi)

12%(2) 12,600 1,145 5,350

Janka side hardness 240 lb for dry material.

Drying and Shrinkage: Dries readily with little degrade. Kiln schedule T6-D2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-D1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 4.1%; tangential 6.1%; volumetric 11.3%.

Working Properties: Saw teeth blunt rather quickly due to the silica content; machined surfaces are somewhat woolly but can be worked to a good finish; glues and nails well; easy to peel into veneer, bolts generally heated.

Durability: Heartwood is not resistant to attack by decay fungi and is susceptible to termite attack.

Preservation: Reported to be resistant to preservative treatments.

Uses: Plywood, furniture components, joinery, paneling, blockboard, particleboard, light construction.

Additional Reading: (2), (3), (9), (11)

2. Becking, R. W. 1960. A summary of information on *Aucoumea klaineana*. For. Abstr. 21 (1 ;2):1-6; 163-172.

3. Bolza, E., and W. G. Keating. 1972. African timbers-the properties, uses, and characteristics of 700 species. CSIRO. Div. of Build. Res., Melbourne, Australia.

9. Farmer, R. H. 1972. Handbook of hardwoods. H. M. Stationery Office. London.

11. France: Bois For. Trop. 1951. Okoume (*Aucoumea klaineana*). Bois For. Trop. 18/19:147-150.

From: Chudnoff, Martin. 1984. Tropical Timbers of the World. USDA Forest Service. Ag. Handbook No. 607.