



Couratari spp.

Family : Lecythidaceae

Mahot

Tauary

Other Common Names: Congolo-Garapelo (Panama), Tabari, Tauari, (Venezuela), Coco Cabuyo (Colombia), Ingiepipa (Surinam), Tauary (Brazil).

Distribution: Several commercial species range from Costa Rica and Panama southward to the Guianas and Brazilian Amazon.

The Tree: Up to 120 ft high with trunk diameters 3 to 4 ft; boles are well formed above the stout buttresses.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Sapwood not distinct from the heartwood which is cream colored with a pinkish or yellowish tinge. Luster rather low to high; grain straight or uniformly interlocked; texture medium to coarse; odor and taste usually lacking, odor reported as fetid in some species. Silica to 0.8% reported.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.50; air-dry density 37 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-in. standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
Green (74)	9,240	1,730	4,260
12%	13,520	1,800	7,460
12% (20)	17,200	NA	8,650
15% (34)	14,200	1,730	7,600

Janka side hardness 880 lb at 12% moisture content and 740 lb for green material. Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material is 124 in.-lb. (5/8)-in. specimen.

Drying and Shrinkage: Wood has a moderate rate of drying with slight surface checking and warp. No dry kiln schedule data available. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 4.1%; tangential 7.3%; volumetric 11.3%.

Working Properties: The wood is rated fair to good in all machining operations. High silica content in some species requires specially tipped cutters.

Durability: Considerable variability of heartwood resistance to decay fungi is reported, from durable to nondurable. Some species show fair resistance to marine borer attack.

Preservation: Heartwood and sapwood easily treated by both pressure and open tank systems with good absorption and penetration.

Uses: General interior construction and carpentry work, boxes and crates, furniture components, veneer and plywood, and railroad cross ties (treated).

Additional Reading: (20),(24), (34), (74)

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34. Japing, H. W. 1957. Tests of the most important mechanical and physical properties of 41 Surinam wood species. Meded. Inst. Trop. Amst. No. 122 (Afd. trop. Prod. No. 46).
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From: Chudnoff, Martin. 1984. Tropical Timbers of the World. USDA Forest Service. Ag. Handbook No. 607.