DIBÉTOU

Lovoa trichilioides Harms, L. swynnertonii Baker

Family: Meliaceae · Continent: Africa



IDENTIFICATION

Family: Meliaceae · Continent: Africa
Botanical names: Lovoa swynnertonii Baker, Lovoa trichilioides Harms (syn. Lovoa klaineana)
CITES (Washington Convention, 2016): no trade restriction

LOG DESCRIPTION

Diameter: 60 to 120 cm
Sapwood thickness: 3 to 7 cm
Buoyancy: floats
Durability in forest: moderate (treatment recommended)

WOOD DESCRIPTION

Reference colour: brown
Sapwood: clearly demarcated
Texture: fine
Grain: interlocked
Interlocked grain: slight
Notes: ring shakes and sometimes brittle heart in some logs. Yellowish-brown or greyish-brown wood with black streaks or veins, taking on a golden lustre. Black deposits in the pores.



PHYSICAL & MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Property	Mean value
Density (1)	**0.53**
Monnin hardness (1)	**2.3**
Volumetric shrinkage coefficient	**0.43% per %**
Total tangential shrinkage (T)	**5.8%**
Total radial shrinkage (R)	**3.7%**
T/R ratio	**1.6**
Fibre saturation point	**27%**
Thermal conductivity (λ)	**0.18 W/(m.K)**
Lower heating value	**19,595 kJ/kg**
Crushing strength (1)	**47 MPa**
Static bending strength (1)	**72 MPa**
Longitudinal modulus of elasticity (1)	**10,460 MPa**

(1) At 12% moisture content, with 1 MPa = 1 N/mm²

NATURAL DURABILITY AND TREATABILITY

Fungi resistance: class 3-4, moderately to slightly durable (species listed in standard NF EN 350)
Dry wood borer resistance: class D, durable (sapwood distinct, risk limited to sapwood)
Termite resistance: class S, susceptible · Treatability: class 3-4, poorly or not permeable
Use class covered by natural durability: class 2, indoors or under cover (risk of humidification)

PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

Against dry wood borer attacks: this wood does not require preservative treatment.
Temporary humidification: requires appropriate preservative treatment.
Permanent humidification: use of this wood is not recommended.

DRYING

Drying rate: rapid to normal
Risk of distortion: low
Risk of case hardening: no known risk
Risk of checking: low
Risk of collapse: no known risk
Suggested kiln schedule: no. 4

ASSEMBLING

Nailing and screwing: good holding.

COMMERCIAL GRADING

Appearance grading of sawn timber according to SATA rules (1996).
General market: strips grades I, II, III, IV; short lengths grades I, II; short rafters grades I, II, III.
Special markets: flooring strips and boards grades I, II, III; rafters grades I, II, III.

SAWING AND MACHINING

Blunting effect: normal
Sawteeth recommended: ordinary or alloy steel
Cutting tools: ordinary
Peeling: good
Slicing: good
Notes: interlocked grain may cause tearing when planing; keep tools sharp. Ribbon figure on quarter-sawn surfaces. Machining dust is irritant.

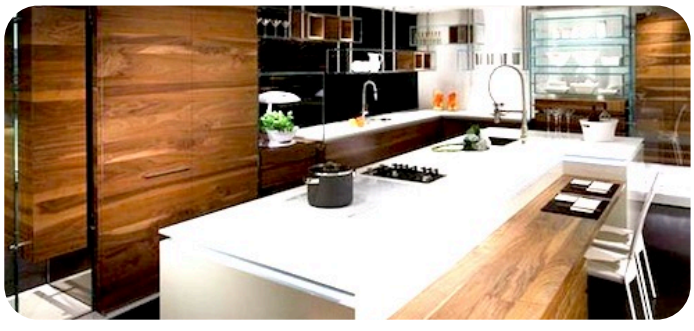
FIRE SAFETY

French conventional classification: thickness > 14 mm: M3 (moderately flammable); thickness < 14 mm: M4 (easily flammable).
Euroclass: D-s2, d0.
Default classification for solid timber meeting NF EN 14081-1 (April 2016): structural timber used for walls and ceilings, graded, with minimum mean density 0.35 and minimum thickness 22 mm.

MAIN END USES

- Turned articles
- Carpentry
- Cabinetwork (luxury furniture)
- Plywood (face or back)
- Panelling
- Exterior joinery
- Interior joinery
- Furniture and components
- Sliced veneer
- Seats

Although locally called Gabon walnut or African walnut, this species must not be confused with common walnut (Juglans regia), which it sometimes resembles.



MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Country — Local name	Country — Local name
Cameroon — Bibolo	Kenya — Mukongoro
Congo — Bosso	Nigeria — Anamenila, Apopo, Sida
Côte d'Ivoire — Dibétou	Uganda — Mukusu, Nkoba
United States — Congowood, Tigerwood	Central African Republic — Boyo kondi
France — Dibétou, Noyer d'Afrique, Noyer du Gabon	DR Congo — Bombulu, Lifaki muindu
Gabon — Éyan	United Kingdom — African walnut, Tigerwood
Ghana — African walnut, Dubini-biri, Mpengwa	Sierra Leone — Wnaimei
Equatorial Guinea — Embero, M'bero, N'vero	

SNBG

Société Nationale des Bois du Gabon

Notre passion, votre patrimoine.

SIÈGE SOCIAL

Libreville, Gabon · BP 2234

TÉLÉPHONE

+ 241 60 45 27 49

E-MAIL

contact@snbg-groupe.ga

SITE WEB

www.snbg-groupe.ga