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Use

Colour

Durability

Density in kg/m<sup>3</sup>

Availability

Price

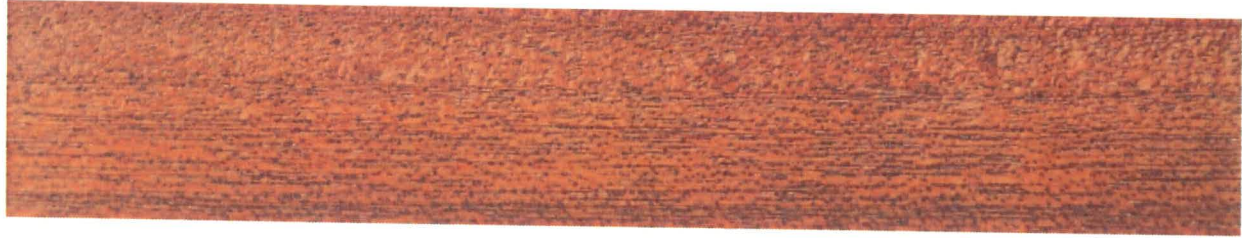
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## Sapele

Latin name: *Entandrophragma cylindricum*

Also known as: saplewood (Nigeria), aboudikro (Ivory Coast), Sapelli (Cameroons)



**Wood Type:**

Hardwood

**Durability:**

Moderately durable

**Treatability:**

Difficult

**Moisture Movement:**

Medium

**Density (mean, Kg/m<sup>3</sup>):**

640

**Texture:**

Medium

**Availability:**

Available at specialist timber merchant

**Price:**

Medium

**Use(s):**

Joinery - Exterior, Joinery - Interior, Furniture, Flooring

**Colour(s):**

Pink/pale red (Freshly cut), Reddish brown (Typical mahogany colour)

NOTES ON TERMS USED [▶](#)

## Environmental

Listed in the [IUCN Red List](#) of Threatened Species as as VU – Vulnerable: at risk of extinction. Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources. Check certification status with suppliers.

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## Distribution

It is found in the rain forests of West Africa from the Ivory Coast through Ghana and Nigeria to the Cameroons, and it extends eastwards to Uganda and Tanzania.

## The tree

A very large tree with cylindrical bole and small or no buttresses. Grows to a height of 45m or more, and a diameter at breast height of 10m or slightly more.

## The timber

The sapwood is pale yellow or whitish, the heartwood pinkish when freshly cut, darkening to typical mahogany colour of reddish-brown. Sapele is characterised by a marked and regular stripe, particularly pronounced on quarter-sawn surfaces. Occasionally mottle figure is present, It is fairly close textured, and the grain is interlocked. It is harder and heavier than African mahogany. weighing about 640 kg/m<sup>3</sup> when dried. It has a pronounced cedar-like scent when freshly cut.

## Drying

The timber dries rapidly with a marked tendency to distort. Quarter-sawn material is less liable to degrade in drying.

## Strength

Sapele is much harder than African or American mahogany, and in resistance to indentation, bending strength, stiffness, and resistance to shock loads, is practically equal with English oak.

## Working qualities

Medium - Works fairly well with hand and machine tools, but the inter-locked grain is often troublesome in planing and moulding, and a reduction of cutting angle to 15° is needed to obtain a good finish. It takes screws and nails well, glues satisfactorily, stains readily, and takes an excellent polish.

## Suppliers

A-7