

Limba Blanca

Atibt

Limba; NEN-EN 13556: limba (GB), limba (F), Limba (D), Code TMSP

Other names

Limba (Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo), akom (Cameroon and Guinea), n'ganga (Central African Republic), chéne-limbo, limbo, limba clair, limba noir, limba bariolé, noyer de Mayumbe (France), ofram (Ghana), fraké (Ivory Coast), afara (Nigeria, Great Britain), corina or korina (United States).

Botanic name

Terminalia superba Engl. & Diels.

Family

Combretaceae.

Growth area

Tropical West Africa from Sierra Leone to Angola.



Tree Description

Height 40-50 m, with straight cylindrical branchless trunks up to 30 m long, plank roots up to 2.5 m high. Stem diameter above the plank roots ranges from 0.6 to 1.2 m. Trunks, especially those with a large diameter may have a voided heart. In addition, limba can sometimes be affected by insects already on the trunk. These borer holes are accompanied by local discoloration in the form of brownish flames, which seem to be a form of defense of the wood against the infestation.

Supply

Roundwood (sawn and veneer), sawn wood and veneer.

Wood Description

There is normally little color difference between heartwood and sapwood. The logs may show a more or less irregularly shaped, dark center, but this is an undesirable brown discoloration and not true core formation. Limba can vary in color from pale yellow or yellow-gray to dark brown, occasionally having a greenish tinge. Depending on the quantities of dark- and light-colored wood present, limba can be offered as follows: limba clair (light straw yellow in color, this is by far the most commonly used), limba bariolé and limba noir (more or less dark-colored and/or veined). On the tangential surface, a flame pattern often occurs that makes light-colored, cut limba slightly resemble oak. The weight, hardness and strength of limba are quite variable and presumably the growing conditions of the tree play a role in this. Furthermore, resin canals filled with black contents may occur, in tangentially oriented rows that can be up to several centimeters long.

Wood Recognition

Yellow in color, but brown or brown-veined wood also occurs, on copse plane no rays visible and winged aliform parenchyma, by growth rings a flame mark on the sessile and a stripe mark on the quartered plane. It is distinguished from the other *Terminalia* species by the occurrence of a dark core.



Grain	Straight to weakly wavy.
Texture	Coarse .
Voluminous mass	(450-)560(-650) kg/m ³ at 12% moisture content, fresh 700-825 kg/m ³ (moisture content approximately 30%).
Shrinkage	Radial 1,5% and tangential 2,8%
Drying	Fast. When air-dried, stacking slats about 25 mm thick should be used to prevent discoloration. Little deformation occurs during drying. There is little chance of surface cracking. The dark areas contain much more moisture than the light wood and often present problems during drying. A calibration line is available for making electrical wood moisture measurements.
Hardness	Longitudinal plane 3050 N.
Machinability	Limba, whether by hand or machine, is easy to work and can be cut or peeled into veneer very well. With non-straight-grained wood, the fibers tend to rise when planed and flattened. Long-term exposure to wood dust can cause allergic respiratory disease. Good exhaust ventilation is recommended.
Nailing & Screwing	Good, but there is risk of splitting.
Adhesives	Good.
Bend	Presumably bad.
Surface finish	Good. For smooth work, a filler is necessary.
Impregnability	Heartwood 2, sapwood 1 (according to NEN-EN 350).
Applications	Veneered limba board material is used in furniture, interior paneling and interior doors, among other applications. The dark-colored limba can produce beautifully drawn veneers, which are sometimes sold under the misnomer noyer de Mayumbe. Solid limba is also sometimes used for moldings, castings for the iron foundry and stair railings. Among guitar makers, the dark limba is especially sought after, which is then called black korina (or white korina if there is no brown in it).
Strength class	Classified in D18 depending on origin and quality (see Table D).



Sustainability

Relative resistance to mold

Heartwood class 4 (NEN-EN 350: practical experience and field research).

Relative resistance to animal organisms

Heartwood: drywood borers S, termites S and marine borers S; sapwood: sapwood beetle S (NEN-EN 350), further sapwood: common woodworm S.