

# Sipo

## Atibt

Sipo; NEN-EN 13556: utile (GB), sipo (F), Sipo (D), Code ENUT

## Other Names

Sipo mahonie, regina mahonie (Nederland), assié, asseng-assié, timbi (Kameroen), kalungi (Angola, Democratische Republiek Congo), assi, kosi-kosi (Gabon), utile (Ghana, Nigeria, Groot-Brittannië), efuodwe (Ghana), abebay (Guinee), sipo, mebrou (Ivoorkust), okeong (Nigeria), mufimbi (Oeganda), liboyo (Democratische Republiek Congo).

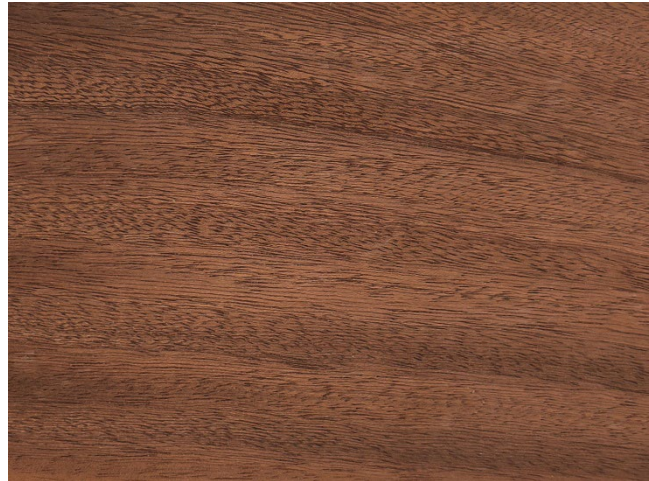
## Botanical Name

*Entandrophragma utile* (Dawe & Sprague) Sprague.

## Family

Meliaceae.

## Growing Area



### Tree description

Height maximum 40-60 m, diameter above root origin 0.7-1.3(-2.5) m. The straight cylindrical branch-free part of the trunk is 10-30 m long.

### Supply

Roundwood (sawnwood) and sawn (edged) wood. It happens that sapelli is mixed through batches of sipo (sipo is somewhat milder and easier to work with).

### Wood Description

The heartwood of sipo, especially from Ivory Coast, has a reddish-brown colour, sometimes with a violet hue. The 20-60 mm wide, grey-pink to light brown sapwood is clearly distinguishable from the heartwood. Under the influence of sunlight, the wood gradually loses its reddish tint and becomes golden brown. Cross-grained wood shows striations on the quarter face, but these are less uniform and not as pronounced as in sapelli. There is a typical purplish flame pattern on the stock, caused by parenchyma tissue in the wood.

### Timber recognition

Red-brown in colour, on end face concentric parenchyma bands (marginal and non-marginal), on the quarter face sometimes a stripe pattern through cross-threading, on the dose face sometimes eta building. Sipo is distinguished from the other African mahogany species (khaya, kosipo, sapelli, tiama) by the parenchyma bands (khaya has no bands and tiama only marginal ones) by the stripe pattern (absent in khaya, kosipo) and etage building (absent in khaya, kosipo, tiama). Due to the variability of its characteristics, sapelli can be distinguished from sipo only on the basis of its cedar-like odour. Sipo differs from Swietenia mahogany by the two types of parenchyma.

### Thread

Usually more or less regular cross-thread. Sometimes the thread is wavy, irregular or tangled.



<b>Nerf</b>	Moderately coarse.
<b>Volumetric mass</b>	(550-)640(-750) kg/m <sup>3</sup> at 12% moisture content, fresh 750-850 kg/m <sup>3</sup> (moisture content about 25%).
<b>Shrinkage</b>	Radial 2.8% and tangential 3.7%.
<b>Drying</b>	Quite slow. Both air-dried and artificial can be dried well. Obviously, the variation in wire direction affects the drying results. To minimise the formation of cracks and deformation especially in thin wood (18 mm or less), drying should be carried out with great care. A calibration line is available for carrying out electrical wood moisture measurements. An application wood moisture content of 16% is recommended for joinery.
<b>Hardness</b>	Longitudinal plane 5600 N.
<b>Machinability</b>	Machining with hand tools and machining sipo presents few difficulties, except for wood with irregular grain. A cutting angle of 15° is then recommended when planing to get a good smooth surface.
<b>Nailing and Screwing</b>	Good. In contact with iron, a blue-grey discolouration develops.
<b>Glueing</b>	Good.
<b>Bending</b>	Very bad.
<b>Surface finishing</b>	Good. For smooth work, a filler is necessary.
<b>Impregnability</b>	Heartwood 4, sapwood 2 (according to NEN-EN 350).
<b>Applications</b>	Sipo can be used in both solid and veneered and plywood form for furniture, interior and exterior panelling, for transparently finished window frames, windows, doors, staircases and skirting boards, hides of yachts, panelling of ships and shops, fascias, parquet, mouldings, turnings and sculptures.
<b>Quality Demands</b>	Sipo is listed in the BRL 1705 and SKH Publication 99-05. The latter means that window frames can be manufactured with a KOMO® product certificate.
<b>Strength Class</b>	Not Known

West- en Central-Africa.

## Durability

### Relative resistance to fungi

Heartwood class 2-3 (NEN-EN 350: practical experience and field research).

### Relative resistance to animal organisms

Heartwood: drywood borers D, termites M and marine borers M (NEN-EN 350).