

Family: COMBRETACEAE (angiosperm)

Scientific name(s): *Terminalia buceras*

*Bucida buceras* (synonymous)

Commercial restriction: no commercial restriction

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

Color: dark brown  
 Sapwood: clearly demarcated  
 Texture: medium  
 Grain: straight, slightly interlocked  
 Interlocked grain: slight

## LOG DESCRIPTION

Diameter: from 40 to 80 cm  
 Thickness of sapwood: from 2 to 4 cm  
 Floats: no  
 Log durability: good

Note: Heartwood of a variable color, depending on the tree, from brown or greenish grey to brown to dark olive, generally different from the light brown greenish to greyish sapwood. Growth rings not visible.

## PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Physical and mechanical properties are based on mature heartwood specimens. These properties can vary greatly depending on origin and growth conditions.

## MECHANICAL AND ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std dev.</u>
Specific gravity *:	0.94	0.02
Monnin hardness *:	6.5	0.9
Coeff. of volumetric shrinkage:	0.66 %	0.11 %
Total tangential shrinkage (TS):	8.9 %	0.4 %
Total radial shrinkage (RS):	6 %	0.2 %
TS/RS ratio:	1.5	
Fiber saturation point:	21 %	
Stability:	poorly stable	

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std dev.</u>
Crushing strength *:	75 MPa	6 MPa
Static bending strength *:	148 MPa	29 MPa
Modulus of elasticity *:	15.300 MPa	3.200 MPa

(\*: at 12% moisture content, with 1 MPa = 1 N/mm<sup>2</sup>)

## NATURAL DURABILITY AND TREATABILITY

Fungi and termite resistance refers to end-uses under temperate climate. Except for special comments on sapwood, natural durability is based on mature heartwood. Sapwood must always be considered as non-durable against wood degrading agents.

E.N. = Euro Norm

Fungi (according to E.N. standards): class 1 - very durable

Dry wood borers: class D - durable (sapwood demarcated, risk limited to sapwood)

Termites (according to E.N. standards): class D - durable

Treatability (according to E.N. standards): class 4 - not permeable

Use class ensured by natural durability: class 4 - in ground or fresh water contact

Species covering the use class 5: no

Note: According to the European standard NF EN 335 (2013), performance length might be modified by the intensity of end-use exposition

## REQUIREMENT OF A PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

Against dry wood borer attacks: does not require any preservative treatment

In case of risk of temporary humidification: does not require any preservative treatment

In case of risk of permanent humidification: does not require any preservative treatment

## DRYING

Drying rate: slow

Risk of distortion: high risk

Risk of casehardening: no

Risk of checking: moderate risk

Risk of collapse: no

Note: drying must be done with care and slowly.

## POSSIBLE DRYING SCHEDULE

M.C. (%)	Temperature (°C)		Air humidity (%)
	dry-bulb	wet-bulb	
Green	40	37	82
40	44	38	68
30	44	36	59
20	46	36	52
15	49	37	46



*This drying schedule is given for information only and is applicable to thickness lower or equal to 38 mm. It must be used in compliance with the code of practice. For thickness from 38 to 75 mm, the air relative humidity should be increased by 5 % at each step. For thickness over 75 mm, a 10 % increase should be considered.*

## SAWING AND MACHINING

Blunting effect: fairly high

Sawteeth recommended: stellite-tipped

Cutting tools: tungsten carbide

Peeling: without interest

Slicing: good

Note: Sawing and machining are difficult due to hardness and interlocked grain. Requires power.

## ASSEMBLING

Nailing / screwing: good but pre-boring necessary

Gluing: correct (for interior only)

## COMMERCIAL GRADING

Appearance grading for sawn timbers: According to NHLA grading rules (January 2007)

Possible grading: FAS, Select, Common 1, Common 2, Common 4

## FIRE SAFETY

Conventional French grading: Thickness > 14 mm : M3 (moderately inflammable)

Thickness < 14 mm : M4 (easily inflammable)

Euroclasses grading: D s2 d0

Default grading for solid wood, according to requirements of European standard EN 14081-1 annex C (April 2009). It concerns structural graded timber in vertical uses with mean density upper 0.35 and thickness upper 22 mm.

## END-USES

Sleepers  
Bridges (parts not in contact with water or ground)  
Industrial or heavy flooring  
Poles  
Ship building (planking and deck)  
Heavy carpentry  
Tool handles (resilient woods)  
Stairs  
Decking

Covers for work and kitchen tables  
Hydraulic works (fresh water)  
Wood frame house  
Stakes  
Cooperage  
Sliced veneer  
Turned goods  
Handicrafts, jewelry



*This list presents main known end-uses; they must be implemented according to the code of practice. Important remark: some end-uses are mentioned for information (traditional, regional or ancient end-uses).*

## MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Country	Local name	Country	Local name
Belize	Bullet Tree	Mexico	Cacho de toro, olivo negro, pucté
Cuba	Júcaro negro	Panama	Mareón
Dominican Republic	Gri-gri	Puerto Rico	Úcar
French Guiana	Bois gri-gri, bois margot, grignon	USA	Black olive, gregory wood, oxhorn, shady lady
Guatemala	Pocte	Venezuela	Búcaro, júcaro
Haiti	Gri-gri		