



Iroko

Milicia excelsa, Milicia regia

AKA: odum (Ghana and Ivory Coast), mvule (East Africa), kambala (Zaire), bang (Cameroons), moreira (Angola), tule, intule

Wood Type -	Hardwood
Environmental -	Listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as LR - Lower Risk (near threatened): close to being classed as Vulnerable. Also meets CITES Appendix II criteria. Legally Verified material available on request.
Distribution -	<i>M. excelsa</i> has a wide distribution in tropical Africa, from Sierra Leone in the west, to Tanzania in the east. <i>M. regia</i> is confined to West Africa, where it occurs from Senegal to Ghana. There does not appear to be any significant difference between the timber of the two species.
The Tree -	<i>M. excelsa</i> attains very large sizes, reaching 45m or more in height and up to 2.7m in diameter. The stem is usually cylindrical and mostly without buttresses. It occurs in the rain, and mixed deciduous forests.
The Timber -	When freshly cut, or when unexposed to light, the heartwood is a distinct yellow colour, but on exposure to light it quickly becomes golden-brown. The sapwood is narrow, being about 50mm to 75mm wide, and clearly defined. The grain is usually interlocked and the texture is rather coarse but even, and the wood weighs on average 660 kg/m ³ when dried. Large, hard deposits of calcium carbonate called 'stone' deposits, are sometimes present in cavities, probably as a result of injury to the tree. They are often enclosed by the wood and not visible until the time of sawing, though the wood around them may be darker in colour, thus giving an indication of their presence.
Drying -	The timber dries well and fairly rapidly, with only a slight tendency to distortion and splitting.
Strength -	Iroko has excellent strength properties, comparing well with teak, though weaker in bending and in compression along the grain.
Working Qualities -	Medium to Difficult
Durability -	Durable
Treatability -	Extremely Difficult
Moisture Movement -	Small.
Density -	660.
Texture -	Medium.
Availability -	Regular.
Price -	Low to Medium.
Chemical Properties -	Occasional deposits of stone may occur
Use(s) -	Bridge construction, Exterior joinery, Interior joinery
Colour(s) -	Yellow brown

