



Autranella congolensis

Family: Sapotaceae

Mukulungu

Other Common Names: Elanzok, Elang (Cameroon), Kabulungu (Zaire).

Distribution: Widely distributed throughout the dense equatorial forests.

The Tree: Reaches a height of 120 ft and more; boles straight, cylindrical, and clear to long lengths; trunk diameters 4 to 6 ft; sometimes buttressed.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood red to reddish brown with darker streaks; sapwood grayish, not always sharply demarcated from the heartwood. Texture is fine and even grain usually straight, sometimes interlocked; somewhat lustrous. Dust is very irritating to mucous membranes.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.78; air-dry density 60 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
12% (44)	21,800	NA	12,700
12% (44)	23,000	2,150	11,900

Amsler toughness 282 to 398 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Seasons slowly and should be quartersawn to minimize degrade. No information available on kiln schedules. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 5.8%; tangential 7.4%; volumetric 14.8%. Reported to have a large movement in service.

Working Properties: Saws and machines fairly easily but with dulling of tools due to silica content; dresses to a smooth finish; difficult to glue; good ventilation is required to remove irritating dust.

Durability: Heartwood is rated as very durable though there may be slight termite attack. Resistant to dilute acids. Good weathering characteristics.

Preservation: Highly impermeable.

Uses: Heavy construction, flooring, furniture and cabinetmaking, acid vats, turnery, joinery.

Additional Reading: (3), (14), (44)

3. Bolza, E., and W. G. Keating. 1972. African timbers-the properties, uses, and characteristics of 700 species. CSIRO. Div. of Build. Res., Melbourne, Australia.
14. France: Bois For. Trop. 1954. Mukulungu (*Autranellaa congolensis*). Bois For. Trop. 36:25-28.
44. Sallenave, P. 1955. Proprietes et mecaniques des bois tropicaux de l'union Francaise. Pub. Centre Tech. For. Trop. No. 8.

From: Chudnoff, Martin. 1984. Tropical Timbers of the World. USDA Forest Service. Ag. Handbook No. 607.