



***Baikiaea plurijuga***

**Family: Leguminosae**

**Rhodesian-Teak**

**Other Common Names:** Zambesi redwood, Umgusi, Mukushi (Rhodesia).

**Distribution:** Dry regions of Zambia and Rhodesia and bordering areas to the west.

**The Tree:** A small tree 50 to 60 ft in height with a short bole of 10 to 15 ft and a trunk diameter seldom more than 2 ft.

**The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood an attractive reddish brown with irregular black lines or flecks; sapwood pale pinkish brown, sharply demarcated from the heartwood. Texture fine and even; grain straight or slightly interlocked; luster low; without characteristic odor or taste. Moist wood in contact with iron may stain because of tannin content.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.73; air-dry density 56 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (2-in. standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
12% (1)	12,220	1,230	9,600

Janka side hardness 2,990 lb at 12% moisture content.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries slowly with little or no degrade. Kiln schedule T3-D2 suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-D1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to 12% moisture content radial 1.5%; tangential 2.5%. Movement in service is rated as small.

**Working Properties:** Rather difficult to saw and machine with severe blunting of cutters, gumming of teeth if sawn green; excellent turnery; good gluing.

**Durability:** Heartwood is rated as very durable; moderately resistant to termite attack. Sapwood liable to powder-post beetle attack.

**Preservation:** Heartwood extremely resistant to preservative treatments; sapwood moderately resistant.

**Uses:** Mainly used in flooring.

**Additional Reading:** (1), (3), (9)

1. Banks, C. H. 1954. The mechanical properties of timbers with particular reference to those grown in the Union of South Africa. J. S. African For. Assoc. 24:44-65.
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.
9. Farmer, R. H. 1972. Handbook of hardwoods. H. M. Stationery Office. London.

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