



Morus mesozygia

Family: Moraceae

Difou

Other Common Names: Wonton (Ghana), Aye (Nigeria), Kankate (Zaire).

Distribution: Found on the edge of the humid rain forests from Senegal to Cameroon and Gabon; also in dry savanna formations. Widely planted as a shade and farm boundary tree.

The Tree: Reaches a height of 90 to 120 ft, bole straight, cylindrical, about 60 ft in length; trunk diameter 2 to 3 ft, wide-spreading root ridges.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood yellow when freshly cut darkening on exposure to a golden- or coffee brown; sapwood wide, grayish white, distinct. Texture fine to moderately coarse; grain shallowly interlocked; moderately high luster.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.70; air-dry density 54 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
12% (46)	24,000	2,260	12,800

Amsler toughness 234 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Reported to have satisfactory seasoning characteristics. No information on kiln schedules. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 3.3%; tangential 5.8%; volumetric 8.0%. Reported to be rather stable when manufactured.

Working Properties: Works with moderate ease with most hand and machine tools, good sawing characteristics; glues well; takes a good finish; veneers well.

Durability: Heartwood vulnerable to attack by decay fungi and liable to termite attack.

Preservation: Heartwood extremely resistant to treatment; sapwood is moderately resistant.

Uses: Joinery, turnery, flooring, veneer.

Additional Reading: (3), (10), (46)

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.

10. France: Bois For. Trop. 1951. Difou (Morus mezoogia). Bois For. Trop. 18/19:143-146.
46.Sallenave, P. 1964. Proprietes physiques et mecaniques des bois tropicaux. Premier
Supplement. Centre Tech. For. Trop. No. 23.

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