



Nesogordonia papaverifera* syn. *Cisanthera papaverifera

Family: Sterculiaceae

Danta

Other Common Names: Kotibe (Ivory Coast), Otutu (Nigeria), Owoe (Cameroon), Arborbo (Gabon), Kondofindo (Zaire), Naouya (Angola), Abumana, Akumaba, Epro (Ghana).

Distribution: Found from Sierra Leone to Cameroon and northern Gabon, occupies mixed and dry deciduous forests and transitional forests.

The Tree: May reach a height of 90 to 120 ft; bole usually straight, cylindrical, and clear 40 to 80 ft; trunk diameters 2.5 to 3.5 ft over short buttresses.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood reddish brown; sharply defined from 2 to 3 in. wide lighter colored sapwood. Texture is fine and even; grain narrowly interlocked producing a stripe figure; medium luster; without characteristic odor or taste. Wood marked with dark streaks of scar tissue, pin knots. Slight greasy feel.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.65; air-dry density 50 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
12% (9)	19,800	1,690	10,050
12% (28)	18,600	1,580	9,450

Janka side hardness 2,140 lb and Amsler toughness 366 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Seasons rather slowly and with little degrade, collapse may occur in kiln-drying. Kiln schedule T6-D2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-D1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 5.4%; tangential 8.2%; volumetric 12.4%. Movement in service is rated as medium.

Working Properties: Works well with hand and machine tools, moderate blunting of cutters, a cutting angle of 15 degrees is suggested to avoid tearing of grain in planing, good slicing timber, glues well, moderate steam-bending properties.

Durability: Heartwood is rated as durable and fairly resistant to termite attack. Sapwood liable to powder-post beetle attack.

Preservation: Heartwood is very resistant to preservative treatments; sapwood moderately so.

Uses: General construction, floors, joinery, turnery, boatbuilding, tool handles, gunstocks, plywood, utility crossarms, furniture. Considered a hickory substitute.

Additional Reading: (3), (9), (28)

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.

28. France: Bois For. Trop. 1974. Kotibe (*Nesogordonia papaverifera*). Bois For. Trop. 157:41-51.

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