



***Bowdichia* spp.**

**Family:** Leguminosae

**Sucupira**

**Other Common Names:** Alcornoque (Venezuela), Sapupira, Sucupira parda (Brazil).

**Distribution:** *B. nitida* occurs in the forests of the Rio Negro and lower Amazon region. *B. virgilioides* has a greater range from Venezuela and the Guianas to southeastern Brazil.

**The Tree:** On favorable sites it is a medium-sized to large tree, up to 150 ft high and diameters to 4 ft. Over part of its range it is a savanna tree of small size and poor form.

**The Wood: General Characteristics:** Heartwood dull chocolate to reddish brown, with parenchyma striping; sharply demarcated from whitish sapwood. Luster low; texture coarse with harsh feel; grain irregular and interlocked; without distinctive odor or taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) averages 0.74. Air-dry density about 56 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (2-cm standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
Green (30)	18,150	2,270	10,140
15%	20,450	NA	11,560

Air-dry Amsler toughness 396 in.-lb (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** No information on drying characteristics. A kiln schedule similar to T5-B2 has been suggested. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 5.0%; tangential 7.8%; volumetric 13.4%.

**Working Properties:** Difficult to work because of its high density and interlocked and irregular grain, but can be finished fairly smoothly. Glues well.

**Durability:** Heartwood reported to be very durable; railroad ties in the Netherlands showed no sign of decay after 17 years of service.

**Preservation:** No information available.

**Uses:** Suggested for heavy durable construction, railway ties, and other uses not requiring much fabrication.

**Additional Reading:** (22), (30), (56)

22. Farmer, R. H. (Editor). 1972. Handbook of hardwoods. H. M. Stationery Office, London.

30. Instituto de Pesquisas Tecnológicas. 1956. Tabelas de resultados obtidos para madeiras nacionais. Bol. Inst. Pesqu. tec. Sao Paulo No. 31.

56. Record, S. J., and R. W. Hess. 1949. Timbers of the new world. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn.

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