



***Brosimum* spp. (Alicastrum group)**

Family: Moraceae

Capomo

Ojoche

Other Common Names: Masicaron (Guatemala, Honduras), Ojuste (El Salvador), Guaimaro, Manata (Colombia), Tillo (Ecuador), Muiratinga (Brazil).

Distribution: *B. alicastrum* and other closely related species are found in southern Mexico through Central America and southward into the Peruvian Amazon.

The Tree: Trees reach a height of 120 ft, with straight cylindrical boles clear to 75 ft; diameters may range up to 30 to 40 in.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Both sapwood and heartwood a uniform yellowish white; wood around knots and other defects may be a distinct red. Texture is fine to medium; grain is straight to irregular and shallowly interlocked; luster low; without distinctive odor or taste.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) very variable with species ranging between 0.55 to 0.72. Air-dry density from 45 to 65 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-in. standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
Green(18)	17,610	1,850	NA
12% (63)	16,050	1,850	NA
12% (71)	16,610	NA	8,870

Janka side hardness ranges between 1,340 lb and 1,700 lb dry.

Drying and Shrinkage: Easy to moderately difficult to air-dry, tendency to twist. No information on kiln-drying. Shrinkage green to ovendry: 5.1% radial; 9.4% tangential; 15.4% volumetric.

Working Properties: Reported to be easy to moderately difficult to machine. Because of its density and silica content of 0.68%, proper cutters should be selected. Figured wood is sliced for face veneers without difficulty.

Durability: Durability is low, vulnerable to attack by white-rot and brown-rot fungi. Particularly susceptible to insect attack because of abundant starch.

Preservation: No information available.

Uses: General construction work, flooring, furniture, cabinet work, veneers, and tool handles. Cooked seeds of *B. alicastrum* are edible.

Additional Reading: (15), (17), (56), (63), (71)

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63. Slooten, H. J. van der, and M. E. Gonzales. 1970. Maderas latinoamericanas. V. *Carapa* sp., *Virola koschnyi* *Terminalia lucida*, y *Brosimum costaricanum*. Turrialba 20(4):503-510.
71. Villamil G., F. (Editor). 1971. Maderas colombianas. Proexpo, Bogota.

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