Tatajuba

Flat sawn

Quarter sawn

Family. Moraceae

Botanical Name(s).

Bagassa guianensis
Bagassa tiliifolia (synonymous)

Continent. Latin America

CITES. This species is not listed in the CITES Appendices (Washington Convention 2025).

Description of logs

Diameter. From 50 to 90 cm

Thickness of sapwood. From 2 to 4 cm

Floats. No

Log durability. Good

Description of wood

Colour reference. Yellow brown

Sapwood. Clearly demarcated

Texture. Medium

Grain. Interlocked

Interlocked grain. Marked

Notes. When freshly cut, the heartwood is yellow. It becomes yellow brown to dark brown with age.

Physics and mechanics

The properties indicated are for mature wood. These properties may vary significantly depending on the origin and growing conditions of the wood.

Property	Average value
Specific gravity[1]	0.80
Monnin hardness[1]	6.4
Coefficient of volumetric shrinkage	0.53 % per %
Total tangential shrinkage (St)	5.2 %
Total radial shrinkage (Sr)	3.7 %
Ratio St/Sr	1.4
Fibre saturation point	20 %
Thermal conductivity (λ)	0.26 W/(m.K)
Lower heating value	19,180 kJ/kg
Crushing strength[1]	78 MPa
Static bending strength[1]	109 MPa
Modulus of elasticity[1]	21,490 MPa

[1] At 12 % moisture content, with 1 MPa = 1 N/mm²

Notes. Tatajuba wood is not very stable (ref. standard NF NF B 54-040 Lames de platelages extérieurs en bois - Caractéristiques, december 2018).

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Natural durability and heartwood treatability

Resistance of heartwood to xylophagous fungi. Durability class 1 - very durable

Resistance of heartwood to xylophagous dry wood borers. Class D - durable (sapwood demarcated, risk limited to sapwood)

Resistance of heartwood to termites. Class D - durable

Heartwood treatability. Class 3 - poorly permeable

Use class ensured by natural durability of heartwood.

Class 4 - in ground or fresh water contact

Notes. This species is listed in the European standard NF EN 350 (2016). This species naturally covers the use class 5 (wood permanently or regularly submerged in salt water, sea water or brackish water) due to its high silica content. According to the European standard NF EN 335 (2013), performance length might be modified by the intensity of end-use exposition.

Requirement of a preservative treatment

Against dry wood borer. Does not require any preservative treatment

In case of temporary humidification. Does not require any preservative treatment

In case of permanent humidification. Does not require any preservative treatment

Drying

Drying rate. Normal to slow

Risk of distorsion. High risk

Risk of casehardening. No known specific risk

Risk of checking. Slight risk

Risk of collapse. No known specific risk

Notes. High risks of distortion in presence of highly interlocked grain. During drying, spacer sticks may stain the wood.

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Suggested drying program.

Phases	Duration (H)	MC (%) probes	T (°C)	Rh (%)	UGL (%)
Prewarm 1		> 50	50	87	17.0
Prewarm 2	4	> 50	50	86	16.5
Drying		> 50	53	85	15.7
		50 - 40	53	82.0	14.6
		40 - 35	54	78.0	13.4
		35 - 30	55	77.0	12.9
		30 - 27	57	73.0	11.9
		27 - 24	58	68.0	10.7
		24 - 21	60	61.0	9.3
		21 - 18	62	52.0	7.9
		18 - 15	64	43.0	6.6
		15 - 12	65	39.0	6.0
		12 - 9	65	31.0	5.0
		9 - 6	65	28.0	4.5
Conditioning	8		58	(3)	(2)
Cooling	(1)		Stop	(3)	(2)

(1) Cooling: until the temperature inside the kiln no longer exceeds external temperature by more than 30 °C.

(2) UGL = final H% x 0,8 to 0,9.

(3) Subtract RH from the UGL determined in (2) and temperature, using the Hailwood-Horrobin equation.

Sawing and machining

Blunting effect. Fairly high

Sawteeth recommended. Stellite-tipped

Cutting tools. Tungsten carbide

Peeling. Not recommended or without interest

Slicing. Good

Notes. Sawdust sometimes irritant. Presence of internal stresses.

Assembling

Nailing and screwing. Good but pre-boring necessary

Notes. High specific gravity: gluing must be especially performed in compliance with the code of practice.

Commercial grading

Appearance grading for sawn timbers.

According to NHLA grading rules (2015) Possible grading: FAS, Select, Common 1, Common 2, Common 3 In French Guiana, the local name of this species is "Bagasse". Grading is done according to local rules "Bois guyanais classés". Possible grading: choix 1, choix 2, choix 3, choix 4

Visual grading for structural applications

No visual grading for structural applications

Fire safety

Conventional French grading.

Thickness > 14 mm: M3 (moderately inflammable)
Thickness < 14 mm: M4 (easily inflammable)

Euroclasses grading. D-s2, d0

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Default grading for solid wood, according to requirements of European standard EN 14081-1+A1 (August 2019). It concerns structural graded timber in vertical uses and ceiling with mean density upper 0.35 and thickness upper 22 mm.

End-uses

- Bridges (parts in contact with water or ground)
- Bridges (parts not in contact with water or ground)
- Cabinetwork (high class furniture)
- Current furniture or furniture components
- Decking
- Exterior joinery
- Exterior panelling
- Flooring
- Heavy carpentry
- Hydraulic works (fresh water)
- Indoor staircases
- Interior joinery
- Interior panelling
- Moulding
- Ship building (planking and deck)
- Ship building (ribs)
- Sleepers
- Sliced veneer
- Turned goods
- Vehicle or container flooring
- Wood frame house

Notes. Marked interlocked grain may be troublesome in the use of this wood.

Wooden structure in Chemin des savanes in Bagasse – by Copeaux and Co, Sinnamary (French Guiana).

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Main local names

Country	Local name
Brazil	Amarelao
Brazil	Bagaceira
Brazil	Tatajuba
French Guiana	Bagasse
French Guiana	Kaw oudou
French Guiana	Odoun
French Guiana	Tatajuba
Guyana	Cow-wood
Suriname	Jawahedan
Suriname	Kaw-oedoe
United Kingdom (importated tropical timber)	Bagasse

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