Suya

Scientific Name: Pouteria speciosa

Family: Sapotaccae

Other Names: Pajura (Brazil), Chuya, Durban Pine, Por (Guyana), Bois macaye (French Guiana), Kromati kopi (Suriname)

The Tree

The tree is 0.35-0.92 meters in diameter with boles 21-21m with the tree being 25-35 meters high. The log is cylindrical with little taper and base slightly swollen.

The Wood

General Characteristics: The sapwood isn't highly distinctive from the heartwood. It is light brown with an occasional pale purple flush. It has a straight grain with a fine texture.

Weight: Basic Specific Gravity 0.58-0.59; air- dry density 12% - 710kg/m^3

Drying and Shrinkage: Shrinkage green to oven dry: radial 5.5-6.4%; tangential 11.0%; volumetric 16.5%.

Mechanical Properties: (First set of data based on the 2-cm standard; second on the 2-In. standard).

Moisture Content (%)	Bending Strength (psi)	Modules of Elasticity (1000 psi)	Maximum Crushing Strength (psi)
Green (74)	7,820	1,460	3,760
12%	10,470	1,820	5,800
Green (30)	10,300	4,450	5,150
12%	13,600	N/A	7,150

Working Properties: Works readily with hand and machine tools with minimum dulling effect; reported to glue readily and polishes fairly well.

Durability: According to graveyard and pure culture tests determa's heartwood is rated durable. It is resistant to attack by white-rot and dry-wood termites. It is also very resistant to moisture and has excellent weathering characteristics. The wood equals Honduras Mahogany in its resistance to termites and marine borers.

Distribution: The Guianas, Trinidad and the lower Amazon region. Occasional to frequent on Sandy or loamy soils in Guyana.

Preservation: The heartwood is not treatable.

Uses: This is generally a utility timber used for both interior and exterior qualities. Used for furniture, boat planking, tanks and cooperage, joinery, heavy marine construction, turnery, parquet flooring, veneer and plywood.

References

- Chundnoff, Martin (1984), "**Tropical Timbers of the World**." USDA Forest Service Ag. Handbook No.607.