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/m³

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).

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

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