Wamara

Scientific Name: Swartzia spp.

Family: Leguminosae

Other Names: Naranjillo (Mexico, Hondurus, Panama), Parakusan (Guyana), Gandoe, Ijzerhart (Suriname), Alma negra (Columbia), Orura barrialera (Venezuela), Icoje (Peru), Pau ferro. Mututv (Brazil)

The Tree

Sizes vary considerably with species, some reaching heights of 110 feet with trunk diameters commonly to 24 inches reaching 36 inches.
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The Wood

General Characteristics: Heartwood is dark brown, reddish brown or nearly black in solid colour or somewhat variegated. It is sharply demarcated from the nearly white to yellowish sapwood. Texture is fine to medium; grain straight to irregular; without any distinctive odour or taste.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (oven dry weight/green volume) 0.87 to 1.02; air- dry density 65 to 75 pcf.

Drying and Shrinkage: Generally had been reported to be moderately difficult to air dry due to checking and warp. Kiln schedule T2-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-C1 for 8/4. Shrinkage is green to ovendry: radial 3.9%; tangential 7.6%; volumetric 11.2%. Movement after manufacture of some species is reported high.

Working Properties: The difficult to work because of their high density, but finish very smoothly and takes high to polish. Workers should be protected from the irritating dust given off by some species.

Mechanical Properties: (First and third and sets of data are based on the 2-in standard, the second set on the 2-cm standard)

Moisture Content (%)	Bending Strength (psi)	Modules of Elasticity (1000 psi)	Maximum Crushing Strength (psi)
Green (75)	22,870	3,000	12,930
12%	26,370	3,630	15,440
Green (42)	21,400	2,480	10,500
12%	32,600	3,220	16,500
15% (34)	23,460	2,620	12,900

Durability: Heartwood is extremely resistant to attack by decay fungi and resistant to dry wood termites. It is not resistant to marine borers.

Distribution: From Southern Mexico, through Central America, the West Indies and southward to northern South America; especially abundant in the Guianas and the Amazon region.

Uses: Used for inlay flooring, parquet flooring, turnery, furniture, cabinetwork, violin bows and specialty items. It is a suggested as a substitute for ebony.

References

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