

Gindya-udu

branchlet with leaves and fruits



mature fruit



tree trunk



NAME

Botanical name: *Buchenavia tetraphylla* (Aubl.) R.A. Howard [family: Combretaceae]

Common trade names: **mirindiba**, **tanimbuca**

Common local name: **gindya-udu** (also known by forest inventory code DJI)

BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Large tree (to 50 m height; DBH may exceed 100 cm) with straight bole, buttresses (to 2.5 m), and typically wide-spreading horizontal branches. The bark is rough and grayish, with longitudinal fissures. The leaves are simple, with a smooth margin. They are densely clustered at the end of terminal branchlets. The flowers are very small, whitish, and are arranged in a spike. The fruit is an elongate berry, the size of an olive, but tapers at both base and tip; it is green, and contains a single stony seed.

DISTRIBUTION

Widely distributed, but not common, in dryland rainforest throughout Suriname; also occurs throughout much of the Guiana Shield, Amazonia, the southern part of Central America and the Caribbean.

WOOD CHARACTERISTICS

The wood is heavy, and overall very similar to that of other *Combretaceae*, such as *Terminalia* spp. – which are known as busi-amandra or bosamandel in Suriname, and which are also traded under the name tanimbuca – but it is shinier, yellowish brown to golden brown.

Flat sawn: view of tangential plane

cross cut

Quarter sawn: view of radial plane

cross cut



PROCESSING

Both sawing and machining of the timber is known to be difficult with a moderate blunting effect on tools. Drying is recorded to be easy with only little degrade of the timber. Nailing and even screwing is hardly possible, pre-boring is necessary. Gluing and the finishing properties are good, resulting in finished products of high quality.

DURABILITY

Resistance to fungi and termite attack is good to very good. Resistance to attack by marine borers is poor.

AVAILABILITY

There is no data on the overall availability; annual harvesting volumes vary between 6,400 - 12,000 m³ over recent years (2010 - 2013).

KNOWN USES

Besides its fine quality, the timber is appreciated for its esthetic appearance, resulting in a wide range of decorative uses like flooring (both indoor and outside), furniture making, boat decking, decorative veneer and turnery.

NAME	
Botanical name	<i>Buchenavia tetraphylla</i>
Trade name	mirindiba
Local name	gindya-udu (DJI)
THE WOOD	
• Color	Sapwood: not very distinct, pale yellowish brown Heartwood: (darker) yellowish brown to golden brown
• Color	straight to interlocked
• Texture	medium to course
• Green density (kg/m ³)	1050
• Specific gravity (at 12% MC)	750
• Volumetric shrinkage (from green to moisture content of 12%)	8.7 % (TS 9.2% / RS 5.9%)
MECHANICAL PROPERTIES (at a moisture content of 12%)	
• Static bending (N/mm ²)	MOE: 11 320 – 22380 MOR: 89 – 151
• Compression strength (N/mm ²)	77
• Janka - Hardness (N)	no data available
PROCESSING PROPERTIES	
• Processing	Sawing: difficult, blunting effect moderate Machining: moderately difficult
• Drying	easy, little degrade when slow
• Nailing	pre-boring necessary
• Gluing	moderate
• Finishing	good
NATURAL DURABILITY	
	Fungi: moderate to good Termites: good to very good Marine borers: poor
KNOWN USES	
	external and internal flooring, furniture, boat decking, planking and framing, decorative veneer and turnery

Synonyms

This species is referred to as *Buchenavia capitata* in sources cited below published before 2000, and in Convallus' Suriname Timber Species.

Information sources used

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