

branchlet with leaves



seeds



seeds



tree trunk



Ingipipa

NAME

Botanical name: *Couratari guianensis* Aubl. [family: Lecythidaceae]

Common trade name: **tauari**

Common local name: **ingipipa** (also known by forest inventory code ING)

BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Large tree (to 60 m height; DBH may exceed 100 cm) with straight bole and very tall buttresses (to 8 m), and typically round crown. The bark is rough and grayish, with longitudinal fissures; it peels off spontaneously in strips. The leaves are simple, with a smooth or almost smooth edge. They are positioned alternately along terminal branchlets (not in pairs, nor densely clustered). The flowers are 3-4 cm large, purplish rose, and have a 'hood' (a recurved outgrowth at the center of the flower); they are arranged in bunches (like grapes). The fruit is an elongate, green to brown husk, shaped like short horn with a lid; when mature it is some 10 x 5 cm, loses its lid, and releases its multiple, dry seeds; the seeds are large, but very flat, like handmade paper cutouts.

DISTRIBUTION

Widely distributed and common in dryland rainforest throughout Suriname; also occurs throughout much of the Guiana Shield, Amazonia, and the southern part of Central America. The tree typically loses all its leaves just before a brief but massive flowering episode in the dry season; below the tree, fallen flowers can form a purplish blanket.

WOOD CHARACTERISTICS

The wood is heavy, and overall very similar to that of other *Couratari* spp., which are also known as ingipipa in Suriname, and are also traded under the name tauari. The wood is somewhat shiny, and has a light yellowish brown to grayish brown color.

Flat sawn: view of tangential plane

cross cut

Quarter sawn: view of radial plane

cross cut



PROCESSING

Both sawing and machining are easy but the blunting effect on tools is recorded to be moderate to high. Machining is easy with tungsten carbide tipped tools. With care trying is easy, gluing and finishing are good. Nailing is recorded as 'moderate holding'.

DURABILITY

Resistance to attack by fungi, termites and marine borers is poor. This limits the range of uses to a considerable extent.

AVAILABILITY

Although high volumes of the species are available in forest concessions, the harvested volume is restricted due to its limited domestic uses. Harvesting volumes vary from 2,000 - 6,000 m³ over recent years (2010 - 2013).

KNOWN USES

Flooring, joinery, furniture making, molding, boxes and crates; railway sleepers when well treated.

NAME	
Botanical name	<i>Couratari guianensis</i>
Trade name	Tauari
Local name	ingipipa (ING)
THE WOOD	
• Color	Sapwood: not distinct, (light) yellowish to grayish brown Heartwood: yellowish to grayish brown
• Color	straight or uniformly interlocked
• Texture	medium to coarse
• Green density (kg/m ³)	1100
• Specific gravity (at 12% MC)	620
• Volumetric shrinkage (from green to moisture content of 12%)	12.0 % (TS 7.0% / RS 4.5%)
MECHANICAL PROPERTIES (at a moisture content of 12%)	
• Static bending (N/mm ²)	MOE: 11900 – 14500 MOR: 87 – 96
• Compression strength (N/mm ²)	48
• Janka - Hardness (N)	no data available
PROCESSING PROPERTIES	
• Processing	Sawing: easy, blunting effect moderate to high Machining: easy with tungsten carbide tipped tools
• Drying	easy
• Nailing	moderate holding
• Gluing	good
• Finishing	good
NATURAL DURABILITY	
	Fungi: poor Termites: poor Marine borers: poor
KNOWN USES	
	interior and exterior joinery, flooring, furniture, molding, boxes and crates, toys

Synonyms

This species is referred to as *Couroupita pulchra* in Lindeman & Mennega's *Bomenboek*.

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