



Description

Name: Kwatapatu

Family: Lecythidaceae

Botanical name: *Lecythis* sp.

Common local name: Kwatapatu

Common trade name: Sapucaia

Botanical characteristics

Mature trees can reach heights between 23 and 55 m. the bole length varies between 20 and 30 m. The log shape is straight and cylindrical and they have a diameter between 0.60 and 1.80m. The tree base is somewhat swollen. The leaves are alternate and they have zygomorphic flowers with 6 yellow petals and a purple margin. The bark is brown to grey brown. Dead bark varies between 10 and 15 mm and living bark between 2 and 4 mm. The crown of the tree is flat to rounded.

Distribution

Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname

Wood characteristics

The sapwood is distinct creamy yellow and the heartwood is light red, brown or salmon red. The wood has slightly interlocked to straight grain and a rather fine to medium texture.

Processing

The wood slices well so it is good for veneer but it cannot easily be dried

Durability

Very durable wood especially heart wood.

Availability

The production in 2014 was 1,757 m³

Known uses

Heavy construction.

Technical Information

Name	
Botanical name	<i>Lecythis</i> sp.
Trade name	Sapucaia
Local name	Kwatapatu
The wood	
Color	Creamy yellow
Grain	Straight to slightly interlocked
Texture	Rather fine to medium
Green density (kg/m³)	1250
Specific gravity (at 12% MC)	820
Volumetric shrinkage (from green to moisture content of 12%)	17.8 % (TS = 10.5% RS = 6.2 %)
Mechanical properties (at a m.c. of 12%)	
Static bending (N/mm²)	No data
Compression strength (N/mm²)	No data
Janka - Hardness (N)	No data
Processing properties (1 = poor , 2 = fair , 3 = good , 4 = very good , 5 = excellent)	
Sawing	5
Drying	2 – 3
Nailing	5
Gluing	5
Finishing	5
Natural durability	Very durable especially heart wood
Known uses	Heavy construction

TS= Tangential shrinkage / **RS**= Radial Shrinkage / **SD**= Standard deviation / **MC**=Moisture Content



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