

Wanakwari

tree trunk



NAME

Botanical name: *Vochysia tomentosa* (G. Mey) DC. [family: Vochysiaceae]

Common trade names: **quaruba, yemeri**

Common local name: **wanakwari** (also known by forest inventory code WNK)

BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Large tree (to 50 m height; DBH may exceed 100 cm) with straight bole, buttresses (to 2.5 m), and rounded crown. The bark is longitudinally fissured, reddish brown, and spontaneously peels off in strips. The leaves are simple, with a smooth margin. They are attached to terminal branchlets as well-spaced 'opposite' pairs, meaning that each paired leaf is positioned at 180 degrees of the other half of the pair. The flowers are about 1.5 cm large, bright yellow, and have a short but distinct 'spur', meaning a downward tubular extension of the flower base that holds nectar. The flowers are arranged in a plume. The fruit is a ribbed, elongate capsule; when mature it is dark green to brown, about 1.5 x 4 cm, and splits open longitudinally to release several elongate, flat seeds that resemble those of maple.

DISTRIBUTION

Widely distributed and common, in dryland rainforest throughout Suriname; also occurs throughout much of the rest of the Guiana Shield.

WOOD CHARACTERISTICS

The wood is light, and overall very similar to that of *Vochysia densiflora*, which is known in Suriname as aprakwari and is also traded under the name quaruba. It is shiny, rose or red to reddish or golden brown; the color is very light in freshly sawn wood. The wood of other *Vochysia* spp. (known in Suriname as kwari; trade name also quaruba) is similar, but often heavier and somewhat different in color (but never with an overall grey tone, like with *Qualea dinizii*, which may also be referred to as kwari in Suriname).

Quarter sawn: view of
radial plane

cross
cut



PROCESSING

Sawing is easy but easily results in raised grains and wooly surfaces. Machining is easy when sharp cutting tools are used. Nailing, screwing, gluing and finishing are easy, all with good results.

DURABILITY

Durability is poor; the wood is quite sensitive to attack by fungi and termites, as well as marine borers.

AVAILABILITY

Data relating to the last several years (2010 - 2013) show a steady harvest of about 8.000 m³ per year. There are no data on the overall available volume of the species.

KNOWN USES

Interior joinery, light carpentry, furniture, plywood.

NAME	
Botanical name	<i>Vochysia tomentosa</i>
Trade name	quaruba
Local name	wanakwari (WNK)
THE WOOD	
• Color	Sapwood: distinct, very light grayish brown to grey-red Heartwood: (pale) brownish red to rose-red
• Color	straight to interlocked
• Texture	medium to coarse
• Green density (kg/m ³)	870
• Specific gravity (at 12% MC)	450
• Volumetric shrinkage (from green to moisture content of 12%)	16.2 % (TS 9.8% / RS 3.7%)
MECHANICAL PROPERTIES (at a moisture content of 12%)	
• Static bending (N/mm ²)	MOE: 8238 MOR: 64
• Compression strength (N/mm ²)	43
• Janka - Hardness (N)	no data available
PROCESSING PROPERTIES	
• Processing	Sawing: easy, raised grains and wooly surfaces Machining: easy with sharp cutting tools
• Drying	normal, but high risk of distortion
• Nailing	good
• Gluing	good
• Finishing	good
NATURAL DURABILITY	
	Fungi: poor Termites: poor Marine borers: poor
KNOWN USES	
	interior joinery, light carpentry, furniture, utility plywood

Synonyms

none that are commonly used

Information sources used

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