M'bero

Lovoa brownii Sprague, *Lovoa trichilioides* Harms Syn. - *L. klaineana* Pierre

Commercial names:

English:	Dibetou, African walnut (L. trichilioides), Nkoba, Uganda walnut (L. brownii), Tiggerwood.
Spanish:	Dibetu, Embero, Nvero, Nogal de África (L. trichilioides), Dibetu (L. brownii).
French:	Dibétou, Bibolo (L. trichilioides), Dibétou (L. brownii), Noyer d'Afrique, Noyer du Gabon.
Italian:	Dibetú (L. trichilioides), Dibetú (L. brownii).
German:	Dibetu, Bombolu (L. trichilioides), Dibetu (L. brownii).

Common names:

S. Leone:	Wnaimei.
Ivory Coast:	Dibetou.
Ghana:	Dubini-biri, Mpengwa.
Nigeria:	Apopo, Sida, Anamelia.
Cameroon:	Bibolo.
Gabon:	Eyan.
Zaire:	Lifaki-muindu, Bombulu.
Equ. Guinea:	Nivero, Embero.

Physical properties:

Density:	520-550-590 kg/m^3	
Shrinkage:	Moderately unstable	
Shrinkage values:	Total	Unitary
Volumetric:	14.1%	(0.43-0.51)
Tangential:	5.8-6.1%	(0.14-0.28)
Radial:	3.7-3.8%	(0.10-0.18)
Hardness:	2.6-2.8%	(Soft)

Mechanical properties (Wood free of defects)

Static bending:	69-100 N/mm^2
Modulus of elasticity:	8,000-12,700 N/mm^2
Compression parallel to grain:	41-59 N/mm^2
Compression perpendicular to grain:	8 N/mm^2
Shear:	6.8-9.3 N/mm^2
Toughness:	2.6-5.0-8.5 J/cm^2

Origin and availability:

This wood is found in the western and central part of Africa. The forested area is stable. Production is normal and the wood is an important export.

Wood description:

The color of the sapwood varies from light grey to light yellow and the heartwood is greyish brown to yellow-brown. Wood color darkens over time. The sapwood is clearly differentiated. The wood has straight black streaks in the grain which give it a lustrous appearance. The wood rays are visible, straight and medium-sized. The grain is interlocked and its texture varies from fine to medium. There may be black deposits in the pores. The resin exudes a penetrating scent similar to that of cedar. In some people dust from the wood can cause irritation of the mucous membranes and eczema.

Drying:

The drying rate varies from fast to normal. There is a slight risk of warping and cracking. The recommended drying schedules are number 5 from the CTFT, number 7 from the CTBA, T6-D2 (4/4) and T3-D1 (8/4) from the FPLM, and the E (4/4) schedule from PRL.

Natural durability and ease of penetration:

The durability of this wood against the action of fungi varies from moderately durable to slightly durable, and it is slightly durable against insects. It is resistant to lyctids and susceptible to termites. The heartwood varies from not penetrable to slightly penetrable. The sapwood is moderately penetrable.

Technological properties:

The wood is easy to saw. The dulling of saws is minimal or normal, and ordinary steel or steel alloy tools can be used. The wood is suitable for rotary-cut veneers and sliced veneers.

This wood is easily worked, but there can be difficulties in planing due to raised grain. Keeping tools very sharp is recommended as well as working with a cutting angle of 15°. Conventional tools can be used. Gluing and finishing do not present problems. Nail and screw properties are also good, although there may be a tendency to crack.

Applications:

Furnishings and cabinetwork./ Decorative veneers./ Exterior carpentry./ Interior carpentry./ Turnery./ Plywood./ Light carpentry./ Due to its color it can substitute European walnut.