



Tepa

Laureliopsis spp.

Commercial names:

Spanish:	Tepa
English:	Tepa
French:	Tepa
Italian:	Tepa
German:	Tepa
Huilliche:	Huahuán

Common names:

América Ce.:	Laurelia, Laurel
Brazil:	Louro, Louro branco, Louro inhamui
Colombia:	Amarillo, Laurel
Ecuador:	Vauván, Jigua amarillo, Tinchí
Chile:	Tepa, huahuán
Guayana F.	Cedre apici
Perú:	Huahuán

Physical properties:

Density:	600 kg/m ³	
Shrinkage:	Moderately unstable	
Shrinkage values (ASTM):	Total	Unitary
	Volumetric:	- (-)
	Tangencial:	- (0,26-0,30)
	Radial:	- (0,16-0,18)
Hardness:	(4,3)	Semi-hard

Mechanical properties (Wood free of defects)

Static bending:	580 Kg/cm ²
Modulus of elasticity:	-
Compression parallel to fibres:	320 Kg/cm ²
Normal fibres compression:	80 Kg/cm ²
Parallel Fibre traction:	680 Kg/cm ²
Normal Fibre traction:	80 Kg/cm ²
Tangential shear:	80 Kg/cm ²

Origin and availability:

Located in Central America, in the Tropical Zone of South America, in the Caribbean and in the West Indies. The forests are stable. Its production is important and the export is stable.

Description of the wood:

The wood of tepa is classified as light wood, with light colours ranging from whitish and grey to yellowish light brown, distributed in a heterogeneous way, observing one single colour from sapwood to heartwood. Its yearly growth rings are differentiable at first sight. In the tepa wood there are usually dark or grey spots produced by the action of fungus caused by an erroneous stock, or because of leaving logs in the forest for a long period, in contact with the ground and moisture. Sometimes, these spots make the commercialization difficult.

Drying:

Drying must be carried out slowly and carefully. The drying speed varies from rapid to normal. There are several risks associated with deformations and cracking; there are other literary sources which mention that the risks associated with malformations are high. Thick pieces can also produce precipitations. It is recommended to air dry under roof.

Recommended Drying Schedule must not exceed 65° to 70° C.

Natural durability and ease of penetration:

Wood is classified as not resistant, as far as resistance against fungus and insects is concerned. The resistance against moisture is low.

Technological properties:

Sawing is easy. Dull varies from little to normal, according to the silica content of the species, and steel or alloys may be used for saws.

It is well suited to obtaining peeling and slicing veneer.

There may be some difficulties associated with mechanising, due to repel. The dulling of tools is normal and the common ones may be used.

Gluing, finishing and using of nails and screws present no problem.

Applications:

Exterior carpentry: coverings. / Furnishing. / Decorative veneers. / Plywood boards. / Hydraulic works: bridges. / Sculpture. / Matches. / Boxes.