



African Pterygota

Pterygota bequaertii De Wild, *Pterygota macrocarpa* K. Schum

Commercial names:

English:	African pterygota, Pterygota, Kefe (<i>P. bequaertii</i>), Kefe, Poroporo (<i>P. macrocarpa</i>)
Spanish:	Koto, Pterygota, Impa (<i>P. bequaertii</i>), Kefe (<i>P. macrocarpa</i>)
French:	Pterygota, Waré (<i>P. bequaertii</i>), Kefe, Poroporo (<i>P. macrocarpa</i>)
Italian:	Pterygota, Impa (<i>P. bequaertii</i>), Kefe (<i>P. macrocarpa</i>)
German:	Impa, Awari (<i>P. bequaertii</i>), Impa, Poroporo (<i>P. macrocarpa</i>), Anatolia

Common names:

Ivory Coast:	Koto
Ghana:	Kyere, Awari
Nigeria:	Kefe, Poroporo
Central Africa:	Kakende
Gabon:	Ake
Zaire:	Ikame

Physical properties:

Density:	510-560-630 Kg/m ³	
Shrinkage:	Unstable	
Shrinkage values:	Total	Unitary
Volumetric:	14%	(0.56-0.57)
Tangential:	9.7%-10.7%	(0.28-0.35)
Radial:	4.5-4.7%	(0.15-0.18)
Hardness:	2.3	Soft

Mechanical properties (Wood free of defects)

Static bending:	85-112 N/mm ²
Modulus of elasticity:	8,800-12,000 N/mm ²
Compression parallel to grain:	43-58 N/mm ²
Compression perpendicular to grain:	-
Shear:	5.8-7.0 N/mm ²
Toughness:	4.5 J/cm ²

Origin and availability:

This wood is found in the eastern and central part of Africa. The forested area, production and export are stable.

Wood description:

The color of the wood varies from creamy white to yellowish white. The sapwood is barely differentiated from the heartwood. The growth rings are visible. The wood rays are also visible. They are very large and form striking figures in edge grained (quartersawn) lumber. The grain is slightly interlocked. The texture of the grain varies from medium to coarse (open). When green the wood has a disagreeable odor which disappears after drying.

Drying:

The drying rate is normal. There are slight risks of warping and checking, and there is a risk of discoloration from oxidation and blue stain. The recommended drying schedules are number 5 from the CTFT, T10-D45 (4/4) and T8-D35 (8/4) from the FPLM, and schedule H from the PRL.

Natural durability and ease of penetration:

The wood is graded as not durable against the decaying action of fungi, susceptible to termites, attackable by lyctids, and susceptible to esoltyids and discoloration from chromogenic fungi. Both heartwood and sapwood are penetrable.

Technological properties:

The wood saws easily. Saws dull at a normal rate, and conventional steel or steel alloy tools can be used. The wood possesses good qualities for obtaining rotary-cut veneer and sliced veneer. After steaming the veneers acquire a greyish yellow or reddish brown color. This wood machines without problems. The dulling rate of tools is normal and conventional machinery can be used. Gluing, nailing, and screwing present no problems. Before applying finishing products a pretreatment with filler is necessary.

Applications:

Decorative veneer./ Plywood./ Interior carpentry: friezes, moulding./ Furniture and cabinetwork./ Crates. This wood can substitute oak and limba in some applications.