



## Wenge

*Millettia laurentii* De Wild., *Millettia stuhlmannii* Taub.

### Commercial names:

English:	Wenge, Awong ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ), Panga-panga ( <i>M. stuhlmannii</i> ).
Spanish:	Wengé, Palisandro del Congo ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ), Panga-panga ( <i>M. stuhlmannii</i> ).
French:	Wengé, Awong ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ), Panga-panga ( <i>M. stuhlmannii</i> ).
Italian:	Wengé ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ), Panga-panga ( <i>M. stuhlmannii</i> ).
German:	Wengé, Awong ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ), Panga-panga ( <i>M. stuhlmannii</i> ).

### Common names:

Cameroon:	Awong ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ).
Congo:	Wenge ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ).
Zaire:	Wenge ( <i>M. laurentii</i> ).
Mozambique:	Jambiré ( <i>M. stuhlmannii</i> ).
Tanzania:	Mpande ( <i>M. stuhlmannii</i> ).

### Physical properties:

Density:	780-830-900 Kg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Shrinkage:	Unstable.	
Shrinkage values:	Total	Unitary
Volumetric:	-	(0.69)
Tangential:	9.1-10.0%	(0.35-0.43)
Radial:	5.9-6.3%	(0.20-0.23)
Hardness:	9.0	Hard-Very hard.

### Mechanical properties (Wood free of defects)

Static bending:	125-200 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Modulus of elasticity:	16,700-17,700 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Compression parallel to grain:	74-85 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Compression perpendicular to grain:	-
Shear:	10.1-15.7 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Toughness:	-

### Origin and availability:

This wood is found in the east, center and west of Africa. The forested area is important. Production and export are scarce.

### Wood description:

The color of the sapwood is whitish or light yellow and the heartwood varies from dark brown to violet-black with fine brown streaks. Green wood darkens on exposure to light. The sapwood is clearly distinct from the heartwood and occupies a thickness of about 2 to 3 cm in roundwood. The grain is straight. The texture of the grains is open (coarse). The wood is acid resistant. Logs can have a rotten pith. The wood can produce skin inflammations and stomach-ache in some people. The species *M. Stuhlmannii* can exude resin.

### Drying:

The wood dries slowly. There are slight risks of warping and checks, although some sources say there is a high risk of checks. The recommended drying schedules are number 3 from the CTFT, number 7 from the CTBA, schedule F from the PRL, and T6-D2 (4/4) and T3-D1 (8/4) from the FPLM.

### Natural durability and ease of penetration:

The wood is graded as durable against the action of fungi and termites, and resistant to lyctids. Heartwood is not penetrable.

### Technological properties:

High powered tools are needed for sawing. Saws dull very quickly, but ordinary steel and steel alloy saws can be used. Because this wood is heavy, it is not recommended for rotary-cut veneer, but it is suitable for sliced veneer. Machining can be difficult due to the hardness of the wood, and high powered machinery must be used. Equipment dulls very quickly and the use of tungsten carbide tools is advisable. Gluing is a delicate job because of resinous cells. Nails and screws need previously drilled holes. Wax-based products are recommended for finishing.

### Applications:

Decorative veneer./ Interior carpentry: flooring./ Exterior carpentry: furniture and cabinetwork./ Turnery./ Carving./ Tool handles.