



Verawood is the only member of the Lignum vitae family that can reach sizes yielding good sawlogs. It shares the same self-lubricating properties as Lignum vitae for use as bushings, collars and rollers, although the latter is still preferred for marine use. Verawood turns well with sharp tools and takes a fine polish

Bulnesia arborea

Verawood

Maracaibo Lignum-Vitae

Family: Zygophyllaceae

Other Common Names: Guayacan, Guayacan de bola (Colombia), Bera, Cuchivaro, Vera aceituna (Venezuela).

Distribution: Coastal region of Colombia and Venezuela, common on the dry foothills between Porto Cabello and Lake Maracaibo.

The Tree: Occasionally 100 ft tall but usually 40 to 50 ft with a trunk diameter of 14 to 20 in.; boles slender, straight, and of rather good form, free of branches for 15 to 20 ft.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood more or less striped and banded, varying in color from light olive green to chocolate brown; surface of fresh wood often turns dark green upon exposure. Sapwood is mostly thin and light yellow in color. Fine textured; cross-grained; oily appearance and feel; mildly and pleasantly scented when warmed.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 1.00; air-dry density 78 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: No data available.

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Drying and Shrinkage: Owing to its high density and the resinous nature of the timber, the wood dries slowly and needs careful handling to avoid splitting; also prone to ring shake. No shrinkage data available.

Working Properties: When seasoned, it is not easy to work either with machine or hand tools but does turn well in the lathe.

Durability: Heartwood is very durable under exposure and will last indefinitely in the ground.

Preservation: Not treatable.

Uses: Because of its high density and self-lubrication, has many uses similar to that of Guaiacum but is not considered as suitable for propeller-shaft bushings. Used as steps and collars for water turbines, mallet heads, pulley wheels, brush backs, locally for railway crossties.

Additional Reading: (54), (56), (79)

M 150 282-3Logs are delivered to a sawmill in southern Nigeria. African mahogany (mostly *Khaya ivorensis*) is in high demand on overseas markets. Export of logs from this region, as well as from most other tropical areas, is being restricted.

M 150 282-2Band mills in Ghana are designed to handle logs 5 feet and more in diameter. Obeche or Wawa (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*) logs yield lumber favored for joinery and millwork.

M 150 273-14In many areas of the tropics, fast-growing species are being introduced for future supplies of fuel wood and industrial wood. Batai (*Albizia falcataria*) is a favored plantation species in the Philippines.

M 150 273-13 *Shorea* spp. is still the major timber group harvested in Southeast Asia. With modern chain saws, fellers no longer need scaffolding to get above large buttresses.

M 150 281 Felling of white lauan or almon (*Shorea a;mon*) with axes in the early 1900s in the Philippines. Most hardwood plywood now imported into the USA is produced from species of *Shorea*.