Terminalia superba
Family: Combretaceae
Afara
Limba

Other Common Names: Ofram (Ghana), Frake (Ivory Coast), Afara (Nigeria), Akom (Cameroon), Limba (Zaire, Angola). "Korina" a trade name in the United States.

Distribution: Widely distributed from Sierra Leone to Angola and Zaire; occurs in rain and savanna forests. A favored plantation species in West Africa.

The Tree: Reaches a height of 150 ft; boles straight and clear to 90 ft; trunk diameters 4 to 8 ft above buttresses. Brittleheart present in some logs.

The Wood: General Characteristics: Heartwood yellow brown, sometimes with nearly black markings producing an attractive figure; sapwood not distinct from heartwood. Texture moderately coarse; grain straight to irregular or interlocked; slightly lustrous; mild odor. Dark colored figured wood is marketed separately as Dark Afara or Dark Limba. Splinters may cause skin inflammation.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.45; air-dry density 34 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture content (%)</th>
<th>Bending strength (Psi)</th>
<th>Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)</th>
<th>Maximum crushing strength (Psi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12%(9)</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>1,530</td>
<td>5,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%(29)</td>
<td>13,200</td>
<td>1,430</td>
<td>6,900</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Amsler toughness 127 in.-lb at 12% moisture content (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Seasons rapidly with little or no checking and warp. Kiln schedule T10-D5S is suggested for 4/4 stock and T8-D4S for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 4.5%; tangential 6.2%; volumetric 10.8%. Movement in service is rated as small.

Working Properties: Saws easily, works well with hand and machine tools, good veneering properties, good gluing and nailing characteristics, takes a good finish.

Durability: Heartwood is nondurable, not resistant to termites, liable to severe ambrosia beetle and powder-post beetle attack.

Preservation: Heartwood extremely resistant to preservative treatments; sapwood moderately so.
Uses: Plywood, furniture, interior joinery, sliced for decorative veneers.

Additional Reading: (3), (9), (29)
