Common name:	DIBETOU
Family:	MELIACEAE
Scientific name(s):	Lovoa trichilioides Lovoa klaineana (synonymous)

LOG DESCRIPTION

Diameter:	from 60 to 120 cm
Thickness of sapwood:	from 3 to 7 cm
Floats:	yes
Durability in forest :	Moderate (treatment recommended)
Note:	Ring shakes and brittleheart possible in some logs.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

Colour:	Brown
Sapwood:	Clearly demarcated
Texture:	Fine
Grain:	Interlocked
Interlocked grain:	Slight

Wood yellow brown or grey brown, with black streaks or veins taking a golden glint. Black deposits in the pores.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Physical and mechanical properties are based on mature heartwood specimens. These properties can vary greatly depending on origin and growth conditions.

	mean	standard deviation
Density *:	0.53 g/cm3	0.06
Monnin hardness*:	2.3	0.7
Coef of volumetric shrinkage:	0.43 %	0.11
Total tangential shrinkage:	5.8 %	0.5
Total radial shrinkage:	3.7 %	0.9
Fibre saturation point:	27 %	
Stability:	stable	

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

	mean	standard deviation
Crushing strength *:	47 MPa	8
Static bending strength *:	72 MPa	13
Modulus of elasticity *:	10460 MPa	946

(* : at 12 % moisture content ; 1 MPa = 1 N/mm2)

NATURAL DURABILITY AND TREATABILITY

Fungi and termite resistance refers to end-uses under temperate climate.
Except for special comments on sapwood, natural durability is based on mature heartwood.
Sapwood must always be considered as non-durable against wood degrading agents.

Fungi:	Class 3-4 moderately to poorly durable
Dry wood borers:	Durable; sapwood demarcated (risk limited to sapwood)
Termites:	Class S - Susceptible
Treatability:	3-4 - poorly or not permeable
Use class*:	2 - inside or under cover (dampness possible)
Note:	This species is listed in the European standard NF EN 350-2.

* ensured by natural durability (according EN standards).

MAIN LOCAL NAMES

Countries	Local names
Cameroon	BIBOLO
Côte d'Ivoire	DIBETOU
Dem Rep of Congo	BOMBULU
Dem Rep of Congo	LIFAKI MUINDU
Equatorial Guinea	M'BERO
Equatorial Guinea	N'VERO
Gabon	EYAN
Ghana	AFRICAN WALNUT
Ghana	DUBINI-BIRI
Ghana	MPENGWA
Nigeria	ANAMENILA
Nigeria	APOPO
Nigeria	SIDA
Sierra Leone	WNAIMEI
France	NOYER D'AFRIQUE
France	NOYER DU GABON
United Kingdom	AFRICAN WALNUT
United Kingdom	TIGERWOOD
U.S.A.	CONGOWOOD
U.S.A.	TIGERWOOD

REQUIREMENT OF A PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

Against dry wood borer attacks:	Does not require any preservative treatment
In case of temporary humidification risk:	Requires appropriate preservative treatment
In case of permanent humidification risk:	Use not recommended

DRYING

Drying rate:	Rapid to normal
Risk of distortion:	Slight risk
Risk of casehardening:	No
Risk of checking:	Slight risk
Risk of collapse:	No

Possible drying schedule

M.C. (%)	Temperature (°C) dry-bulb	wet-bulb	Air humidity (%)
Green	50	47	84
40	50	45	75
30	55	47	67
20	70	55	47
15	75	58	44

This schedule is given for information only and is applicable to thickness < 38 mm.
It must be used in compliance with the code of practice.
For thickness from 38 to 75 mm , the air relative humidity should be increased by 5 % at each step.
For thickness over 75 mm , a 10 % increase should be considered.

Note: Existing shakes tend to slightly extend.

SAWING AND MACHINING

Blunting effect:	Normal
Sawteeth recommended:	Ordinary or alloy steel
Cutting tools:	Ordinary
Peeling:	Good
Slicing:	Good
Note:	Difficulties due to interlocked grain in planing (tearing). Keep sharp tools. Ribbon like aspect on quartersawn. Sawdust may be irritant.

ASSEMBLING

Nailing / Screwing:	Good
Gluing:	Correct
Note:	Risks of end checks.

END-USES

Main known end-uses; they must to be implemented according to the code of practice.
Important remark: some end-uses are mentionned for information (traditional, regional or ancient end-uses).

Note: Should not be confused with WALNUT (Juglans spp.), only colours are similar.

Cabinetwork (high class furniture)
Current furniture or furniture components
Sliced veneer
Interior panelling
Veneer for back or face of plywood
Interior joinery
Turned goods
Seats
Light carpentry