

Cupiuba / Goupi / Kabukalli



Trade Name: **Cupiuba**

Other Names: Goupi, Kopi, Kabukalli

Scientific Name: *Goupia glabra*

Specie Brief: Medium density hardwood of moderate-high durability. Beautiful grain and coloration but unfortunately the wood emits an unfavorable smell. Best for outdoor use.

Wood Description		Physical & Mechanical Properties	
Heartwood Color	Yellow brown	Specific Gravity (kg/m3)*	0.84
Sapwood Color	Clearly demarcated	Monnin Hardness*	6.2
Texture	Medium	Crushing Strength*	62 MPa
Grain	Interlocked	Radial Shrinkage	5.10%
Cross Grain	Marked but not frequent	Tangential Shrinkage	8.80%
Durability	Class 3 - moderately durable	Tangential / Radial Ratio	1.70
Marine Durable	Class 5 - no	* at 12% moisture content	

Key Products & Uses:

- General Construction
- Cladding
- Sub-Construction
- Railway Sleepers
- Sheet Piling
- Flooring

Properties & Characteristics

Cupiuba is a common species throughout South America where it is more widely used and liked than in international export markets. Due to its unpleasant smell, it is only used in export markets for outdoor products where its smell is neutralized such as railway sleepers and waterway sheet piling. With beautiful coloration and texture, Cupiuba has appeal as a local species in South America for flooring and exterior cladding. It is very durable to termites, holds a nail well, and can be sawn in large timber sizes adding to its local use as a heavy construction timber.

General Construction & Framing

Locally in South America, Cupiuba is commonly used as a heavy construction timber due to its termite resistance and its natural strength. It is also a relatively clean wood species with minimal defects so can be milled in long lengths and large sizes. This makes it favorable for floor joists and large beams in parts of Brazil, Suriname, and Guyana. In Suriname and Guyana, house floor joists and roof rafters are commonly made from Cupiuba.

Flooring & Cladding

In certain parts of South America such as Suriname and Guyana, Cupiuba is used for flooring and exterior cladding primarily due to its resistance to termites and its appealing texture and color. In this case the strong odor of the wood needs to be considered. Ideally in these circumstances the natural wood is painted or oiled so that the strong natural odor of the wood is reduced.

Railway Sleepers & Sheet Piling

In Europe, Cupiuba is only suitable for outdoor products that do not involve direct human interaction so that the strong smell emitted by the wood is not noticeable. This includes products such as wooden railway sleepers and waterway sheet piling where a significant amount of the wood product is submerged. Both these products require large sized timbers, so it is important that the best quality and large diameter logs are selected. In the past Cupiuba has been used as sub-construction in Europe but with mixed success due to the smell.