

Sapucaia / Kouata Patou



Trade Name: **Sapucaia**

Other Names: Kouata patou

Scientific Name: *Lecythis davisii*

Family / Famille: *Lecythidaceae*

Specie Brief: A very durable hardwood that is more common in the Guiana's Amazon region than Brazilian, meaning limited historical exposure to international markets.

Wood Description		Physical & Mechanical Properties	
Heartwood Color:	Red Brown	Specific Gravity (kg/m ³)*	0.96
Sapwood Color:	Clearly demarcated	Monnin Hardness*	8.4
Texture:	Medium	Crushing Strength*	71 MPa
Grain:	Straight or interlocked	Radial Shrinkage	6.6%
Cross Grain:	Slight	Tangential shrinkage	9.8%
Durability:	Class 1 - very durable	Tangential / Radial Ratio	1.5
Marine Durable:	Class 5 – ? (CIRAD)	* at 12% moisture content	

Key Products & Uses:

- Sub-Construction
- Construction Timbers
- Marine Timbers
- Table Tops
- Structural Lumber

Properties & Characteristics

Sapucaia is a lesser known species (LKS) that is primarily harvested for commercial use in the Guiana's region with limited knowledge and commercial volume being produced in Brazil. Trees are mid to upper canopy and can attain heights up to 35 m with generally straight and cylindrical trunks.

The heartwood of Sapucaia is yellow to reddish brown with some darker stripes that give it a nice appearance as table-top slabs. The sapwood has a lighter colour and can easily be distinguished. The grain is straight and sometimes interlocked, though end checking of lumber can occur. The Silica content of Sapucaia varies

and can cause a blunting effect on tools. Sapucaia has been researched in the past as a marine durable timber but is not yet widely sourced compared to species like Angélique and Greenheart.

Joinery, Windows & Door Framing

The Netherlands is the largest market in Europe for Louro Vermelho where it is used for handrails and other joinery applications in the wooden bridge building industry. It is also commonly used for outdoor joinery projects that involve public seating and esthetic uses in public spaces. As these projects primarily involve public works or local government projects, there is strong demand for certified Louro Vermelho such as FSC or PEFC.

Stair Treads

Due to its light weight and natural durability, Louro Vermelho makes a suitable timber species for use in the exterior cladding sector. Though this sector is heavily dominated by red cedar and now heat-treated softwoods, there are certain projects that always require a specialty hardwood like Louro Vermelho. The species is suitable for other external board uses such as fascia. Generally, suppliers from South America produce 25mm (1 inch) boards which are then machined in Europe to the final preferred profile.

Outdoor Joinery

As the biological forest in South America does not have a lot of naturally light weighted woods that are also durable such as Louro Vermelho, then Louro Vermelho is utilized in a variety of uses locally in South America

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where a less dense wood is preferred. This includes fascia boards and certain joinery applications around windows and even roof battens which require easy nailing without splitting. Hence Louro Vermelho is also a common local species in countries such as Brazil, Suriname, and Guyana.