



# Padouk

## Atibt

Padouk d'Afrique; NEN-EN 13556: African padouk (GB), padouk d'Afrique (F), Afrikanisches Padouk (D), Code PTXX

## Other Names

M'bèl (Kameroen, Gabon), palo roja (Guinee), osun (Nigeria), kisésé, n'gula, mukula, mongola (Kongo DR), mwangura (Oost-Afrika), African padouk, barwood (Groot-Brittannië), padoukcorail (France).

## Botanical Name

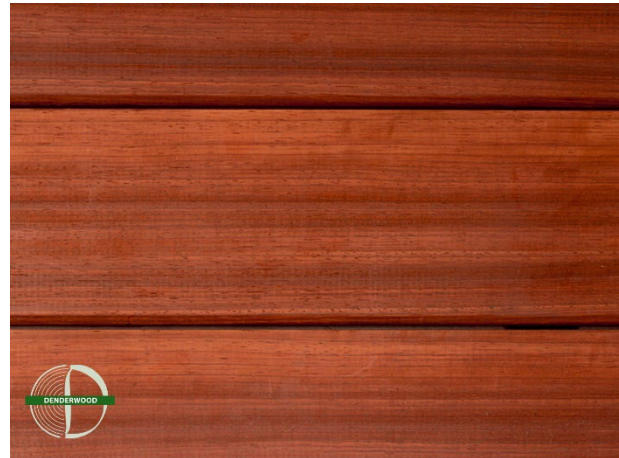
*Pterocarpus soyauxii* Taub. en *Pterocarpus osun* Craib..

## Family

Leguminosae (Papilionaceae).

## Growing area

Tropical West-Africa.



## Tree Description

Height 23-35 m. The 10-20 m long, branch-free, straight cylindrical trunk has a diameter of 0.5-1(-1.5m). Trunks thicker than 1 m should be avoided because of the risk of heart defects. Rather heavy, low root attachments occur at the stem base.

## Supply

Sawn (edged) timber and roundwood.

## Wood Description

The heartwood of African padouk is a beautiful bright orangey red, also called coral red, hence the name corail. When exposed to light, this shade quickly discolours to pale reddish brown and, in the long run, to brown. If the wood is finished in time with an acid-curing clear varnish, the beautiful colour is retained for longer. The 100-200 mm wide sapwood is dirty white to cream-coloured. Sometimes, some days after sawing wet wood, large white spots appear in the heartwood. African padouk is an excellent, durable, beautiful and stable type of wood. African padouk can excrete a blue-white wax years after processing, which is easy to rub off with a cloth.

## Timber recognition

Red in colour, on copse plane few vessels and thin wavy parenchyma bands, on sessile plane eta building, sometimes fluoresces slightly yellow-orange. Other *Pterocarpus* species are often also red in colour but not as bright orange as padouk. *Muninga* (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) can even be distinguished on the basis of its brown colour. *Pterocarpus indicus* (Indian padouk) does not fluoresce or only bright yellow.

## Thread

Straight, sometimes slight cross-hatching.

## Nerf

Moderately coarse to coarse.

## Volumetric mass

(620)-770(-900) kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 12% moisture content, fresh 900-1000 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (moisture content about 40%).



<b>Shrinkage</b>	Radial 1.0% and tangential 2.0%.
<b>Drying</b>	Fairly slow, with little loss of quality. Due to the low shrinkage, there is little risk of deformation during natural drying. Only during accelerated drying, some end cracks and deep hairline cracks may appear. A calibration line is available for carrying out electrical wood moisture measurements.
<b>Hardness</b>	Longitudinal plane 6850 N.
<b>Machinability</b>	Good, both with hand tools and machinable. If the grain is irregular, planing the radial surface can obviously cause some difficulties due to indentations. The wood can be turned very well and, especially when steamed, does not present any problems when processed into veneer. Padouk contains ingredients that can cause serious inflammation when injured by splinters. Fine dust can cause respiratory problems in sensitive people.
<b>Nailing and Screwing</b>	Pre-drilling is recommended, use stainless fasteners in damp conditions.
<b>Glueing</b>	Difficult given many ingredients.
<b>Bending</b>	Not known.
<b>Surface Finishing</b>	Good with a solvent-based paint. Difficult with a water-based system (risk of leaching of contents). For some finishes, degreasing may be necessary as a pre-treatment.
<b>Impregnability</b>	Heartwood 2, sapwood not known (according to NEN-EN 350).
<b>Details</b>	Besides African padouk, there is also Andaman padouk and Indian padouk. Andaman padouk is little traded in the Netherlands. Indian padouk ( <i>Pterocarpus indicus</i> Willd.) is light yellow-brown to reddish brown with sometimes dark irregular stripes. Its properties are largely similar to the padouk described above. Other names: Angsana (Java, Sabah), Solomon padouk (Solomon Islands), sono kembang (Indonesia), narra, rosewood. Specific markings are found in the so-called root nodules of Indian padouk from the Indonesian island of Seram (Moluccas) and in the Ambonese rootwood, Amboyna or loupe d'Amboine. <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> is another Asian species also called red sanders. There is also an American species, <i>Pterocarpus officinalis</i> also called palo de sangre.

**Applications**

Interior and exterior panelling, facades, doors, furniture, bar and counter tops, billiards, billiard cues, flooring, mouldings, knobs and handles (knife handles of root wood), veneers, turnery and sculpture.

**Strength Class**

Classified as D30 depending on origin and quality (see table D).

**Durability****Relative resistance to fungi**

Heartwood class 1 (1) (NEN-EN 350: practical experience and field testing), class 1 (Salomon Padouk, Pterocarpus indicus, NEN-EN 113: laboratory test without soil contact).

**Relative resistance to animal organisms**

Heartwood: drywood borers D, termites D and marine borers D (NEN-EN 350).