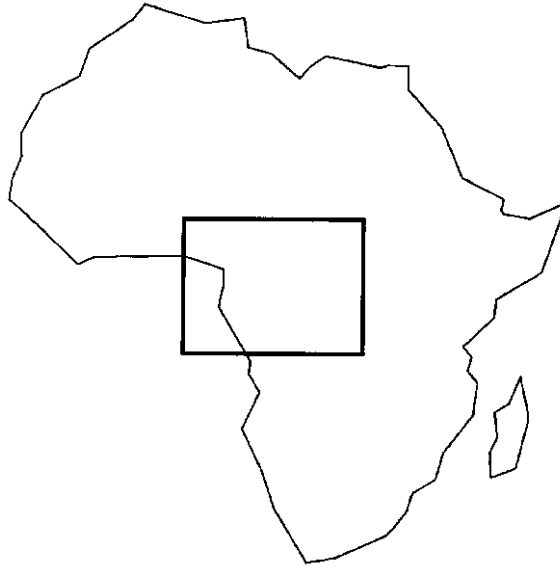




Commercial names:	engl.: Afrormosia; African teak esp.: Teca africana fr.: Assamela
Common names:	Anyesan, Ayin, Egbi, Elo (Nigeria); Ejen (Cameroon); Awawai, Kokrodua (Ghana); Mohole (the Netherlands); Ole (Zimbabwe); Satinwood (Benin)
Scientific synonyms:	<i>Afrormosia elata</i> Harms
Subject to CITES regulations:	Only logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets
Macroscopic characteristics of the wood:	<p>Wood: light brown, diffuse porous with distinct growth rings. The sapwood and heartwood are easily distinguishable; the sapwood is yellowish white to light brown, rarely more than 25 mm wide. The heartwood is initially orangish brown to brown, but usually becomes yellowish brown or olive green that later darkens. The wood resembles teak, but when exposed to light it darkens to brown and its texture is finer with interlocked grain, which forms a banded pattern. Without characteristic odour or taste. The fibres are typically straight, sometimes slightly interlocked.</p> <p>Hardness: semihard to hard Grain: fine to medium (as fine as teak, but not as oily) Specific weight: 0.69 – 0.76 g/cm³</p>
Microscopic characteristics of the wood:	<p>Growth rings distinct. Vessels diffuse, few, up to 20/mm², solitary or in radial multiples of up to four elements. Tangential diameters of (85 –) 120 (-180) µm. Perforation plates simple. Intervascular bordered pits alternate, vestured and with a diameter of 8 µm. The vessels contain abundant deposits or gum. Parenchyma predominantly vasicentric aliform and confluent, although sometimes arranged in marginal zones, usually layered. Rays homogeneous, usually 4 to 10 cells wide, layered. Fibres thick-walled. Crystals present in septate crystalliferous cells.</p>
Characteristics of the trees:	<p>Trees reach an average height of 40 metres. The trunk usually has buttressed roots, which gives straight trunks of up to 30 metres suitable for timber, with a diameter of up to 1.2 –1.5 metres. The bark peels off in thin sheets, leaving bright reddish brown spots. The species grows in dry areas of semi-deciduous humid forests, with precipitation between 1000 and 1500 mm per year.</p>
Characteristics of trade:	<p>According to the National Academy of Sciences (1979), this species has a texture, fibre and general aspect similar to those of teak. 'Teak' furniture sold in the United States of America is actually African teak.</p>

Distribution: Central and western Africa (from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria to Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo)



Use: The wood of this species is used for naval construction, chairs, fine furniture, flooring, veneers for interior decoration, television and radio cases.

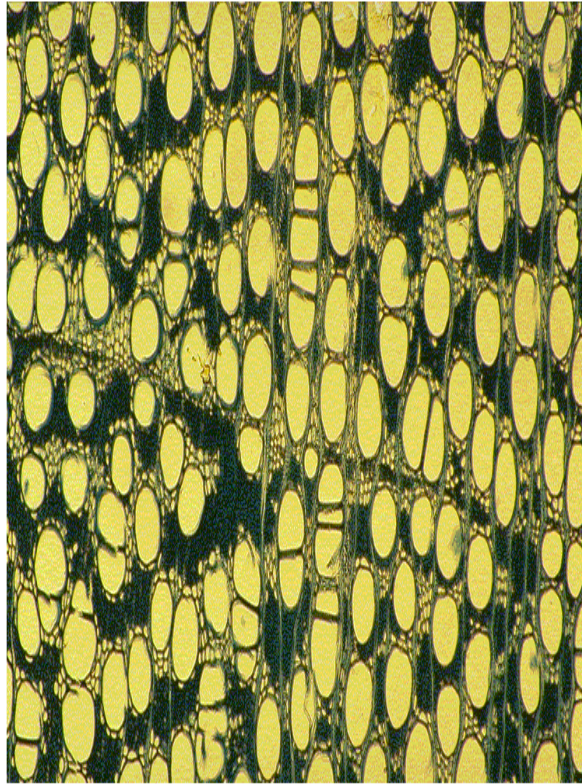
Similar species: There are four species in this genus, three of which are found in tropical Africa, although only *Pericopsis elata* is commonly traded.

Other similar species	Distribution	Common name
<i>Clarisia racemosa</i>	South America	Guariuba
<i>Enterolobium schomburgkii</i>	South America	Batibatra

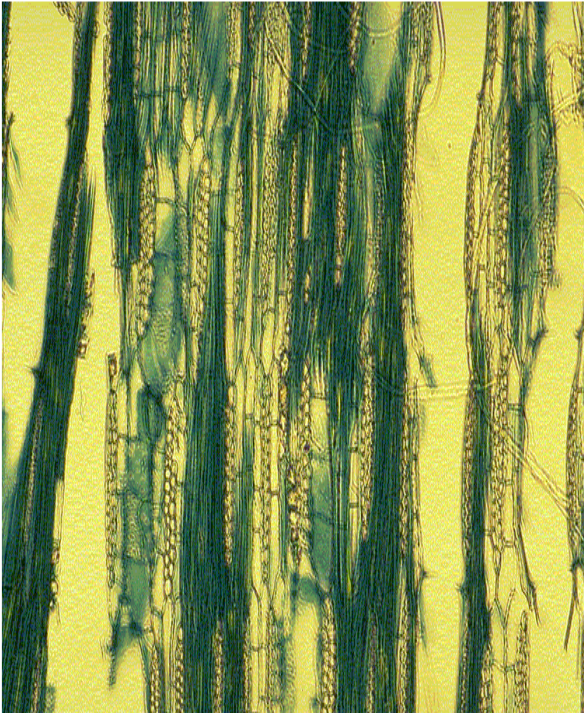
Species →			
Characteristics ↓	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	<i>Clarisia racemosa</i>	<i>Enterolobium schomburgkii</i>
Colour sapwood	yellowish white	white	light yellow
Colour heartwood	light brown	light brown	light brown
Grain	fine to medium	thick	medium to thick
Fibres	straight, sometimes interlaced	variable	straight to wavy
Hardness	hard	hard	very hard
Specific weight	0.69 - 0.76 g/cm ³	0.60 - 0.65 g/cm ³	1.1 g/cm ³

Pericopsis elata





transverse section



tangential section



radial section