



<b>Commercial names:</b>	engl.: Mahogany, American mahogany esp.: Caoba, Caoba de Centro América, Caoba de Honduras fr.: Acajou d'Amérique centrale
<b>Common names:</b>	Aguano, Araputanga, Bigleaf mahogany, Caoba del Atlántico, Caoba de hoja ancha, Caoba del Sur, Coabillo, Cóbano, Gateado, Gateads, Mara, Mara boliviana, Mogno, Mogu, New World Mahogany, Orura, Venadillo, Zapatón, Zopilote
<b>Scientific synonyms:</b>	<i>Swietenia candollei</i> Pittier <i>Swietenia tessmannii</i> Harms. <i>Swietenia krukovii</i> Gleason <i>Swietenia belizensis</i> Lundell <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> var. <i>marabaensis</i> Ledoux & Lobato
<b>Subject to CITES regulations:</b>	Only logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets
<b>Macroscopic characteristics of the wood:</b>	<p>Wood: reddish brown, diffuse porous, vessels visible to the naked eye, of medium size. On the tangential and radial sections, the vessels appear as a small empty groove with a dark bottom. Growth rings; visible but not well marked, and of uneven width wood. Clearly distinguishable sapwood and heartwood. The very narrow sapwood is of a light colour, almost white, and the heartwood is bright pink immediately after being cut, but darkens with exposure to light, passing to reddish brown. The wood is somewhat lighter and smoother than Cuban mahogany (<i>S. humilis</i>). Odourless. Fibres straight, wavy or twisted with a tendency to be interlocked and irregular. Wood rays and parenchyma invisible to the naked eye.</p> <p>Hardness: medium</p> <p>Grain: fine to medium, but finer than that of the African caobas</p> <p>Specific weight: varies greatly depending on the origin: 0.45 – 0.70 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, with an average of 0.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup></p>
<b>Microscopic characteristics of the wood:</b>	<p>Wood diffuse porous, moderately few or few vessels (2 – 12, usually 8/mm<sup>2</sup>), solitary and in radial multiples. Average tangential diameter of the solitary vessels (100 –) 150 (–200) µm; with minute intervascular bordered pits. Simple and inclined perforation plates. The vessels are moderately short, (239 –) 307 (– 405) µm long, with deposits or gum in the interior. The axial parenchyma varies between two types: zoned marginal and vasicentric paratracheal. The parenchymal series are formed by 5 – 7 cells. This parenchyma is usually present in vertical layers (storied). Rays heterogeneous, multiseriate, usually between 3 – 4, but sometimes up to 7 cells wide and distributed in layers, although this varies. There are calcium oxalate crystals in the cells. Libriform fibres are very short: (875 –) 996 (– 1275) µm and septate. Variable forms of vertical canals can be found, arranged in tangential series.</p>
<b>Characteristics of the trees:</b>	The tree can reach 35 – 40 metres in height and 2 metres in diameter. It usually has buttress roots up to 5 metres above the base, which increases the diameter of the trunk to more than 10 metres, making it necessary to cut the tree at more than 2 metres above the ground. The trunk is straight and cylindrical, without branches for approximately 25 metres. The bark is reticulate, greyish brown sometimes with reddish marks. Young branches are glabrous, with fine patterns.

**Distribution:** Bolivia, Brazil, Central America, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela



**Characteristics of trade:** This species is probably the most valuable tree in all of Latin America. According to ITTO, this species is exported in the form of squared logs and veneers. There are several hundred species suitable for timber that are similar to mahogany, at least in general aspects, although without the quality that has made it famous: dimensional stability. These species are frequently sold as mahoganies with the addition of the name of the country of origin.

**Use:** High-quality furniture, interior finishing, pianos, industrial pattern making, woodcut blocks, musical instruments, boat interiors, carvings and sculptures.

**Similar species:** There are three species in this genus in tropical America: *Swietenia humilis*, *S. macrophylla* and *S. mahagoni*. There are several hybrids in Central and South America: *S. macrophylla* x *S. humilis*; *S. macrophylla* x *S. mahagoni* (probably a synonym of *S. x aubrevilleana* Stehlé & Cusin). In addition to these species, there are other similar species of African origin, which are generally called African mahoganies.

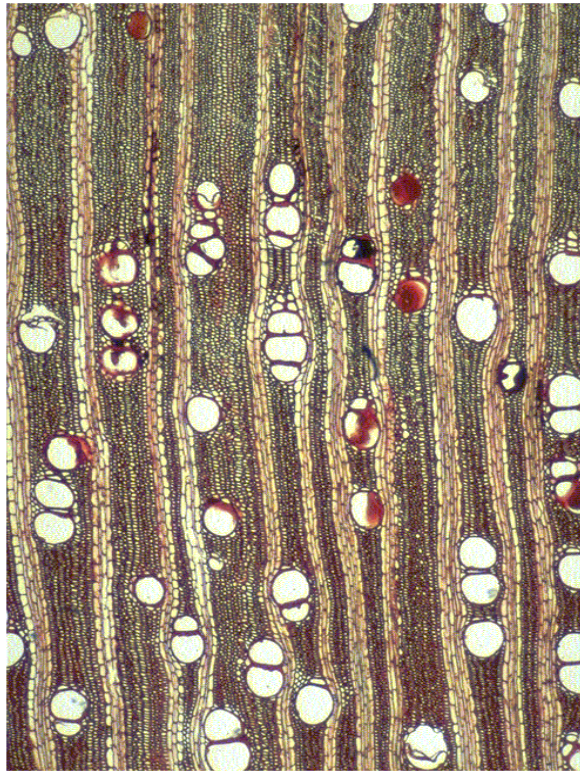
	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>S. humilis</i>	Central America	American mahogany
<i>S. mahagoni</i>	Caribbean and Florida	Cuban mahogany
<i>Entandrophragma angolense</i>	Africa	Geduo nohor, Tiama, Kalungi
<i>E. candollei</i>	Africa	Kosipo, omu
<i>E. cylindricum</i>	Africa	Sapele
<i>E. utile</i> (Dawe & Sprague) Sprague	Africa	Utile
<i>Khaya anthotheca</i> (Welw.) C. DC.	Africa	African mahogany, White khaya
<i>K. grandifoliola</i> C. DC.	Africa	African mahogany, red khaya
<i>K. ivorensis</i> A. Chev.	Africa	Acajou blanco
<i>K. nyasica</i> Stapf	Africa	Mozambique mahogany, Umbawa
<i>K. senegalensis</i> (Desr.) A. Juss.	Africa	African of Senegal mahogany
<i>Carapa guianensis</i> Aubl.	Central and South America	Andiroba, Crabwood



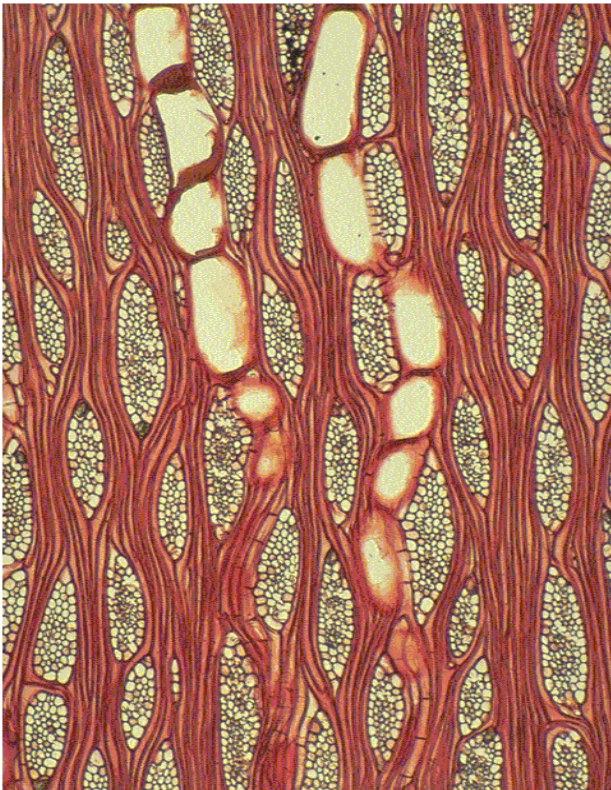
Species →	<i>Swietenia humilis</i>	<i>Swietenia mahogany</i>	<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	<i>Khaya anthoteca</i> <i>K. ivorensis</i> <i>K. nyasica</i>	<i>Khaya grandifolia</i>	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	<i>Entandrophragma angolensis</i>	<i>E. candollei</i>	<i>E. cylindricum</i>	<i>E. utile</i>
Characteristics ↓										
Colour sapwood	grey brown	light pink	light pink	yellowish white	pink	pink	pink	pink	whitish yellow	light brown
Colour heartwood	reddish brown	reddish brown	reddish brown	reddish brown	reddish brown	reddish brown	reddish brown	reddish brown with purple lines	reddish brown	reddish brown
Grain	medium	fine and uniform	fine to moderately pink	medium to thick	moderately thick	moderately thick	moderately thick	thick	fine	uniform
Fibres	inter-locked	straight	straight interlocked	sometimes straight usually interlocked	interlocked irregular	interlocked	interlocked	straight to inter-locked	interlocked sometimes wavy	inter-locked
Hardness	medium	medium	soft to medium	soft to medium	medium	medium	soft to medium	medium	medium	medium
Specific weight	1.61 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.7 - 0.8 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.45 - 0.70 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.53 - 0.59 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.56 - 0.77 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.88 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.54 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.64 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.56 - 0.69 (0.62) g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.55 - 0.75 (0.66) g/cm <sup>3</sup>



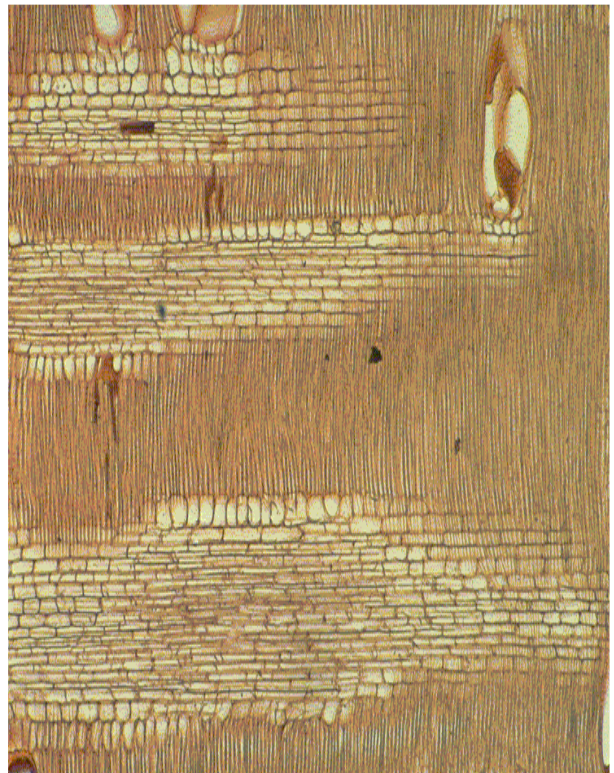




transverse section



tangential section



radial section