

Redheart

Botanical name: Sickingia salvadorensis.

Distribution: Southern Mexico to southern Brazil and Paraguay

Other names: Also known as Redheart, Chakte Kok, Acotillo, Chakte Coc, Honduras Redwood, and Zapotillo

CITES Protection Status: Not protected.

Background: Commonly called Chakte Kok (with a multitude of variant spellings), this species has been previously placed in the Sickingia genus. Another species that's also in the Rubiaceae family is Cosmocalyx spectabilis, which is typically sold interchangeably as Chakte Kok. A third, botanically unrelated wood (Erythroxylaceae family), which bears an uncanny similarity in nearly every respect to the two other species is Erythroxylum havanense, which is most commonly sold as Redheart.

Wood Characteristics: Aptly named, in some instances freshly surfaced Redheart can be a very bright, watermelon red—though color can vary in intensity and hue from board to board: anywhere from a light orange/pink, (similar to Pink Ivory), to a darker brownish red. In some cases, it can look quite similar to Bloodwood, though usually with a more visible and figured grain pattern. Redheart's vibrant color quickly fades to a reddish brown in direct sunlight, though this color change can be slowed (but usually not stopped entirely) by using a finish with UV inhibitors, and keeping the wood away from strong lighting.

Physical Properties		
Green weight [kg/m³]	1181	
Air-dry density (12-15% MC) [g/cm³]	0.751	
Shrinkage radial [%] tangential [%]	Total*	Normal**
	4.3	1.6
	9.8	2.7
Differential swelling [%/%]	radial: 0.30 tangential: 0.48	
Dimensional stability	very good	
Mechanical Properties		
Elastic Modulus [lbf/in2]	1497000	
Modulus of Rupture [lbf/in2]	14320	
Crushing Strength [lbf/in2]	6690	
JANKA Hardness [lbf]	1210	

*Green to dry (0% moisture); **Green to 12% moisture

Workability: Redheart has good working characteristics, and planes, machines, and sands well. Turns, glues, and finishes well, though a brown color shift is to be expected.

Drying: The wood dries slowly in open air. Technical drying takes moderate time, requiring programs like F (UK) or M (Cartagena Agreement Board).

Natural Durability: Highly resistant to attack by the fungi *Polystictus versicolor* and *Lenzites trabea*.

Uses: Sleepers, furniture, cabinetry, packaging, crafts, musical instruments, interior decoration, paneling, structural elements, knife handles, turned items, exterior and interior construction, decorative sliced veneer, and flooring.



Surface: Tangential face (natural size)



Cross-section (approx. 10x magnification)