

TZALÁM

Lysiloma sp.



Geographic Distribution. Mexico, Central America and Caribbean.



Characteristics. Sapwood of yellowish-cream color, clearly differentiated from heartwood which ranges from light to dark brown with copper or purple hues. Growth rings weakly marked or absent. The wood may have grain ranging from subtle to pronounced, and sometimes no visible grain. Medium texture, somewhat lustrous surface; dry wood has no characteristic odor or taste.



Workability. Heavy and hard wood, somewhat difficult to work both manually and with machinery. Tools with reinforced edges and proper cutting techniques are recommended to achieve high-quality surfaces and edges. Offers excellent finishing and high polish. Easy to lacquer and glue. Pre-drilling is required for nailing and screwing.



Drying. The wood dries slowly in open air, requiring 90 to 150 days for 2.5 cm thick boards, with strong tendency to surface and end cracking as well as warping. Technical drying takes moderate time, requiring programs like F (UK) or M (Cartagena Agreement Board).



Natural Durability. Highly resistant to fungi and insect attacks. Likely not resistant to marine borers.



Current Uses. Exterior and interior construction, fine carpentry and furniture, molded products, flooring, crafts and turned items.

Potential Uses. Prefabricated parquet, decorative sliced veneers, sports equipment, door and window frames.



Cross-section (approx. 12x magnification)



Surface: Tangential face (natural size)



Surface: Radial face (natural size)

Physical properties

Green weight [kg/m^3]	~ 1200	
Air-dry density (12-15% MC) [g/cm^3]	0.70—0.88	
Shrinkage	Total*	Normal**
radial [%]	2.7—3.0	~ 1.0
tangential [%]	5.5—7.8	~ 2.1
Dimensional stability	Good to fair	

Mechanical properties

Compressive strength (parallel, 12-15% MC) [N/mm^2]	45—68
Bending strength (12-15% MC) [N/mm^2]	88—132
Modulus of elasticity (bending, 12-15% MC) [N/mm^2]	9900—13100
Shear strength (12-15% MC) [N/mm^2]	11—14
JANKA hardness (side, 12-15% MC) [kN]	~ 9

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