SIRICOTE

Cordia dodecandra DC., family Boraginaceae



Geographic Distribution: Southeastern Mexico (Veracruz, Chiapas, Yucatán), parts of Central America (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras), and Cuba.

Other Names:: Bojón, cericote, cópite, copté, cupapé, chak'opté, nopo, palisandro, trompillo (MX); zericote (BZ); capté (GT).



CITES Protection Status: Not protected.

Background: Siricote is a highly versatile tree with multiple uses. Its wood is of high density and, due to its unique color and grain, closely resembles the noble woods of the Dalbergia genus, which is why it is often marketed in Germany under the name "Mexiko Palisander" (Mexican rosewood). The edible fruits are also used for preserves and marmalade, and various parts of the plant are used in traditional medicine. The leaves (due to their hairs) are used for washing dishes or as a substitute for sandpaper. In Mexico, siricote is considered a threatened species due to overexploitation for industrial use.



Wood Characteristics: Heartwood ranges from dark brown to yellowish-brown, with irregular black streaks: abrupt transition to creamy white sapwood. Growth ring boundaries are not distinguishable even with a magnifying glass. Pronounced grain with fine, irregular, and wavy lines of dark brown to black, which, along with the high rays' "mirror," create a beautiful design. Slightly olly surfaces. Medium to fine texture, somewhat rough; straight to slightly interlocked grain; odor of dry wood is not distinctive.



Workability: Despite its high density, the wood is easy to work with both hand tools and machinery. It allows for good quality sawing, planing, turning, molding, and sanding; acceptable resistance to splitting. Likely difficult to glue due to its high density and oily surface. Pre-drilling is required for nailing and screwing; it provides a good finish.



Drying: The wood is moderately easy to air-dry, drying slowly with few cracks and deformations. For conventional technical drying, the following programs are recommended (US): T6-D2 for 1 and T3-D1 for 2.



7ross-section, approl. 121 magnification

Fadial face, nati ral sine



Bati ral Di raVility: Bo reliaVle information has Veen foi nd on the nati ral di raVility of this wood Vased on tests according to estaVlished standards. < owever, the heartwood is repi ted to Ve resistant to decay fi ngi and insect attacks (termites, Vorers).



Uses: Flooring (planks and parei et), fine fi rniti re and caVinets, knife and tool handles, carpentry work (interior and el terior), paneling, decorative veneers, crafts, and mi sical instri ments (gi itar Vacks).

Dhysical Droperties		
; reen weight [kg/m³]	no data	
5ir-dry density (12-15% MC) [g/cm³]	0.91—1.01	
Shrinkage	Total*	Normal**
radial [%]	~ 4.3	~ 2.0
tangential [%]	~ 6.8	~ 3.5
Differential swelling [%/%]	radial: 0.28 tangential: 0.39	
Dimensional stability	good	
Mechanical Properties		
Parallel compressive strength (12-15% MC) $[\rm N/mm^2]$	no data	
Bending strength (12-15% MC) [N/mm²]	108—110	
Modulus of elasticity (bending) (12-15% MC) $[\rm N/mm^2]$	10900—11100	
Impact resistance (12-15% MC) [kJ/m²]	149—183***	
Shear strength (12-15% MC) $[N/mm^2]$	no data	
JANKA hardness (side) (12-15% MC) [kN]	10—11	
BRINELL hardness (side) (12-15% MC) [N/mm²]	38—41	

*Green to dry (0% moisture); **Green to 12% moisture; ***Estimated values based on air-dry density (12-15% MC).