

# The Colonial Woodsmyth

**Common Name:** African Padauk

**Botanical Name:** Pterocarpus soyauxii



**Other Common Names:** African padauk, Mbe, Mbil, Mututi, Ngula, Bosulu

**Common Uses:** Cabinetmaking, Carvings, Decorative veneer, Domestic flooring, Dyewood, Furniture, Joinery, Paddles, Specialty items, Tool handles, Turnery, Bedroom suites, Bobbins, Chairs, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Desks, Dining-room furniture, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Excelsior, Figured veneer, Fine furniture, Floor lamps, Flooring, Furniture components, Furniture squares or stock, Handles, Hatracks, Kitchen cabinets, Living-room suites, Office furniture, Parquet flooring, Picker sticks, Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rustic furniture, Shade rollers, Shafts/Handles, Shuttles, Spindles, Spools, Sporting Goods, Stencil & chisel blocks, Stools, Sub-flooring, Sucker rods, Tables, Umbrella handles, Utility furniture, Veneer, Wardrobes, Woodwork



**Region:** Africa

**Country:** Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria, Zaire

**Tree Data:** The tree is reported to reach heights of 100 to 130 feet (30 to 40 m), with trunk diameters that are usually 24 to 48 inches (60 to 120 cm), but may sometimes reach 60 inches (150 cm). Boles are often straight and cylindrical, and are clear of branches to about 70 feet (21 m).

**Sapwood Color:** The sapwood is white when freshly cut, but turns to brownish yellow or gray upon exposure.

**Heartwood Color:** The heartwood is vivid reddish-orange initially, but it changes to bright red, red or coral pink, with dark streaks, or reddish- or purplish-brown or black over time. The color is reported to darken upon drying, but it eventually fades with age. Color variation between boards is reported to be slight.

**Grain:** The grain is generally straight to somewhat interlocked.

**Texture:** Texture is described as fine to medium.

**Luster:** The surface of the wood is reported to have a natural sheen.