

The Colonial Woodsmyth

Common Name: Goncalo Alves

Botanical Name: *Astronium fraxinifolium*



Other Common Names: Goncalo alves, Kingwood, Zebra-wood, Zorowood, Tigerwood, Mura, Urunday-para, Bois de zebre, Bossona

Common Uses: Billiard-cue butts, Boat building, Bobbins, Bows, Cabinetmaking, Decorative veneer, Fine furniture, Flooring, Furniture, Jewelry box, Paneling, Plywood, Shutters, Turnery

Region: Latin America

Country: Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

Distribution: The geographical range of the species is reported to be tropical South America, and includes Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Another very similar species, which is also marketed as Goncalo alves is *A. graveolens*, grows in the upland forest of many regions from Mexico and Central America to Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, and Ecuador.

Tree Data: The tree reaches a height of up to 120 feet (37 m), with a trunk diameter of 24 to 40 inches (60 to 100 cm) or more above narrow flanged buttresses that are about 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 m) high. It develops well-formed cylindrical boles that are often clear for about two-thirds or more of the total height of the tree.

Sapwood Color: The sapwood is described as dirty gray or brownish-white in color. It is about 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm) wide, and is clearly defined from the heartwood.

Heartwood Color: The wood has been described as light golden brown to reddish brown, with irregularly spaced blackish brown streaks.

Grain: The grain is usually wavy or interlocked, and is irregular. The wood has alternating bands of hard and soft tissue, and a mottled figure similar to that of Rosewood is reported to be occasionally present.

Texture: The texture is typically fine.

Luster: The wood has medium to dull luster.

