

BRIDGES ♦ BOARDWALKS ♦ JETTIES

SPECIES	Ekki
FAMILY	Ochnaceae
LATIN NAME	Lophira alata -
DISTRIBUTION	Tropical West Africa.



USES

Suitable for heavy construction, all marine work, wharves, bridge building and decking, railway sleepers, very heavy duty flooring. Also for rollers, wagon work and superior joinery. Its acid resistance makes it ideal for filter press plates and frames. A wider range of uses is limited by the difficulty of machining.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Deep red to dark brown with conspicuous white deposits in the pores giving a speckled appearance. Grain is usually interlocked, and the texture coarse and uneven. Weight 950-1120 kg/m³ (59-70 lb/ft³), averaging 1025 kg/m³ (64 lb/ft³); specific gravity 1.02.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

This exceptionally heavy dense wood has very high bending and crushing strengths, high stiffness and resistance to shock loads. It is probably too tough for steam bending.

SEASONING

It is extremely refractory and dries very slowly with severe splitting and possible distortion, notably surface checking and end splitting. Should be piled very carefully. Large movement in service.

DURABILITY 1

Ekki is very durable and very resistant to decay; it is one of Africa's most durable woods. Moderately resistant to attack by termites in Africa and extremely resistant to preservative treatment.

DURABILITY 2

Strength Class	D70
Weight per m ³ 12% m.c.	950-1100 Kg
Modulus of elasticity 12% m.c.	18500 N/mm ²
Durability	Very durable