

TIGERWOOD / GONCALO ALVES
(ASTRONIUM FRAXINIFOLIUM)

Other Common Names: Urunday-para, Goncalo alves, Tigerwood, Kingwood, Zebrawood, Zorrowood, Mura, Bois de zebra, Bossona.



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.

The Tree: 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.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: 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. The wood has been described as light golden brown to reddish brown, with irregularly spaced blackish brown streaks. 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. The texture is typically fine.

Mechanical Properties:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Dry</i>	<i>Units</i>
Weight	77		Lbs/cu.ft
Density		62	Lbs/cu.ft
Stiffness		2479	1000 psi
Bending Strength		19285	psi
Max. Crushing Strength		11020	psi

Hardness / JANKA: 1910 lb. for green material and 2160 lb for dry

Drying and Shrinkage: A slow drying rate has been recommended to prevent degrade. The timber is reported to be rather difficult to dry. Rapid air-drying rates may cause excessive warping and checking.

Working Properties:

Durability: The wood is reported to be highly regarded for its durability. It is resistant to attack by beetles.

Preservation:

Uses: Is used for boat building and general construction.

SOURCE: US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service