**Croton megalocarpus**  
**Family:** Euphorbiaceae  
**Musine**

**Other Common Names:** Mlalai, Muhande (Tanzania).

**Distribution:** Occurs in tropical East Africa, with an altitudinal range of 4,000 to 6,700 ft; used as a shade tree in coffee plantations.

**The Tree:** May reach a height of 120 ft; with a clear cylindrical bole 40 to 60 ft in length, free of buttresses; with trunk diameters of 2 to 4 ft.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood yellowish to brownish gray, sometimes with dark brown to black streaks near the center of the log; sapwood not clearly differentiated. Texture medium; grain straight; unpleasant smell when freshly cut; dry sawdust irritating to nose and throat.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.57; air-dry density 44 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (2-in. standard)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture content</th>
<th>Bending strength (Psi)</th>
<th>Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)</th>
<th>Maximum crushing strength (Psi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green(5)</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness 1,300 lb for green material and 1,350 lb for dry.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Rather difficult to season without warping and checking. Kiln schedule T3-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-C1 for 8/4. No data available on shrinkage values. Movement in service is large.

**Working Properties:** Reported to be easy to saw, moderately difficult to machine but planes to a smooth lustrous surface, good gluing and finishing characteristics. Dust may be irritating to mucous membranes.

**Durability:** Vulnerable to attack by decay and stain fungi and liable to termite attack.

**Preservation:** Reported to be readily treatable by pressure systems.

**Uses:** General construction, heavy-duty flooring.

**Additional Reading:** (3), (5), (9)