**Brachylaena hutchinsii**  
*Family: Compositae*  
*Muhuhu*

**Other Common Names:** Muhugwe, Mkarambaki, Ol Magogo (Tanzania).

**Distribution:** Common in the dry coastal forests of Tanzania and Kenya, also recorded in Uganda.

**The Tree:** Commonly 30 to 60 ft in height; bole twisted and fluted to 20 ft; trunk diameter 1 1/2 to 2 ft; stem often hollow.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood bright yellow brown when freshly sawn, becoming yellowish or greenish brown on drying; sapwood grayish white, distinct. Texture fine and even; grain straight, closely interlocked, or wavy; with an aromatic spicy scent.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.75; air-dry density about 58 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (2-cm 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 (40)</td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>7,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16,200</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>10,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness 1,880 lb for green material and 2,190 lb for dry.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Seasons rapidly with a tendency to checking but no warping, thick stock dries slowly with severe checking. Kiln schedule T2-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-C1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to 12% moisture content: radial 2.0%; tangential 3.0%. Movement in service is rated as small.

**Working Properties:** Because of irregular grain and high density the timber is difficult to work, moderate blunting of cutters, tools tend to collect gum, shapes and turns well, difficult to glue, takes a high polish.

**Durability:** Heartwood is rated as very durable, and with good resistance to termites and marine borers.

**Preservation:** Extremely resistant to impregnation.

**Uses:** High quality flooring, carving, turnery.

**Additional Reading:** (3), (9), (40)