**Burkea africana**  
**Family:** Leguminosae  
**Burkea**

**Other Common Names:** Mgando, Mkarati, Msangala (Tanzania).

**Distribution:** Widely distributed in dry savanna forests from Nigeria southward to Transvaal.

**The Tree:** A small to medium-sized tree, 50 to 70 ft in height, with a bole length of 15 to 20 ft; trunk diameters 1 to 2 ft. Heart of the tree is often decayed.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood dark brown or reddish brown; sapwood whitish or yellowish, not always sharply defined. Texture moderately fine; grain interlocked wavy; lustrous.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (oven-dry weight/green volume) 0.60 to 0.80; air-dry density 46 to 61 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** No information available.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries rather rapidly with little warping or splitting. Kiln schedule T2-C2 is suggested for 414 stock. Shrinkage green to 12% moisture content; radial 1.2%; tangential 2.1%. Little movement in service.

**Working Properties:** Not difficult to saw but is difficult to work with hand and machine tools, tends to tear in planing, glues well, takes a good finish.

**Durability:** Heartwood is rated as very durable and is immune to termite attack.

**Preservation:** Heartwood is extremely resistant to preservative treatments, sapwood permeable.

**Uses:** Parquet flooring, fine cabinet and furniture work, joinery, railroad crossties, mining timbers.

**Additional Reading:** (3), (6), (62)

