**Balfourodendron riedelianum**  
**Family:** Rutaceae  
**Pau Marfim**

**Other Common Names:** Marfim, Pau liso (Brazil), Guatambu, Guatambu blanco (Argentina).

**Distribution:** State of Sao Paulo, Brazil; northern and central Paraguay; and the Selva Misionera, Argentina.

**The Tree:** A small to medium-sized tree rarely up to 80 ft high and 30 in. in diameter. Has well-formed, straight bole up to 30 ft high.

**The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** A nearly white or pale yellowish-brown wood without apparent contrast between sapwood and heartwood. Luster medium; grain generally straight; texture fine and uniform; without distinctive odor or taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) averages 0.73 for wood grown in Brazil and 0.65 for Argentinean material. Air-dry density averages about 50 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 (30)</td>
<td>15,170</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>6,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>19,870</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8,535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amsler air-dry toughness 581 in.-lb (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Can be dried without excessive degrade. Kiln schedule T6-C3 is suggested for 4/4 stock, and schedule T5-C2 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 4.6%; tangential 8.8%; volumetric 13.4%.

**Working Properties:** Limited information suggests that the wood can be sawn and worked without undue difficulty. It is non-siliceous and non-resinous and unlikely to have a marked blunting effect on tools; easy to finish and is reported to glue satisfactorily.

**Durability:** Heartwood is rated as nondurable.

**Preservation:** Reported to be resistant to treatment by pressure methods.

**Uses:** Furniture, cabinetwork, tool handles, flooring, turnery. Suggested as a substitute for birch and hard maple.

**Additional Reading:** (30), (56), (69)