**Dalbergia retusa**  
**Family:** Leguminosae  
**Cocobolo**

**Other Common Names:** Granadillo (Mexico, Guatemala), Funera (El Salvador), Palo negro (Honduras), Nambar (Nicaragua, Costa Rica), Cocobolo, Cocobolo prieto (Panama).

**Distribution:** Pacific regions of Central America and extending from Panama to southwestern Mexico. Of limited occurrence, usually in the drier uplands.

**The Tree:** A small to medium-sized tree 45 to 60 ft high with trunk diameters of 20 to 24 in.; usually of poor form.

**The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** Somewhat variable in color when freshly sawn but heartwood usually becoming a deep rich orange red with black striping or mottling on exposure Texture fine; grain straight to interlocked; oily; without distinctive taste, odor slightly pungent and fragrant when worked. Fine dust may cause dermatitis.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.80 to 0.98; air-dry density 62 to 76 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** No data available, but is denser and stronger than Brazilian rosewood (see *D. nigra*).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Reported to have excellent drying properties, free of surface and end checking. A kiln schedule similar to T1-B1 has been suggested. Shrinkage is usually low; high stability in use. Very low moisture absorption.

**Working Properties:** Reported to have excellent machining characteristics; natural oils give the wood a good polish, but make it unsuitable for gluing. Fine dust may produce rash resembling ivy poisoning.

**Durability:** Durability is high, has very high resistance to marine borer attack.

**Preservation:** No data available.

**Uses:** Highly favored in the cutlery trade for handles, inlay work, brush backs, musical and scientific instruments, jewelry boxes, chessmen, and other specialty items.

**Additional Reading:** (55), (56)
