**Vouacapoua american**  
Family: Leguminosae  
Wacapou  
Acapu

**Other Common Names:** Bruinhart (Surinam), Sarabebeballi (Guyana), Wacapou (French Guiana), Acapu (Brazil).

**Distribution:** Surinam, French Guiana, and the State of Para in Brazil. Occupies noninundated lands in upland forests.

**The Tree:** A canopy tree with small buttresses and usually a somewhat fluted lower trunk; bole clear to 50 to 75 ft; mostly not more than 24 in. in diameter but at times reaching 36 in.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood dark brown or reddish brown, deepening upon exposure, figured with fine parenchyma lines; sharply demarcated from the nearly white sapwood. Luster medium to rather low; texture uniformly coarse; grain fairly straight to irregular; dry wood has no distinctive odor or taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.79; air-dry density 59 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 (3)</td>
<td>15,850</td>
<td>2,620</td>
<td>9,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21,640</td>
<td>2,530</td>
<td>11,480</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness for green material 1,610 lb, 1,730 lb at 12% moisture content. Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material 203 in.-lb. (5/8-in. specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Moderately difficult to dry with slight warping in the form of cup and twist and slight checking. A modified T7-B3 schedule is used in Surinam for 4/4 stock. Shrinkage from green to ovendry: radial 4.9%; tangential 6.9%; volumetric 13.0%.

**Working Properties:** Moderately difficult to work because of density; machines to smooth surfaces, but there is some rough and torn grain in boring and mortising. Takes glue well.

**Durability:** Very durable in resistance to attack by a brown-rot and white-rot fungus, not attacked by dry-wood termites or other insects. Reports on resistance to marine borers are variable; good resistance is noted in Panama waters.

**Preservation:** Heartwood is highly resistant to moisture absorption and is probably not treatable.
**Uses:** Heavy construction, flooring (strip and parquet), interior trim, furniture, cabinetwork, paneling, railroad crossties.

**Additional Reading:**
