

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Pericopsis elata*

[Synonyms : *Afrormosia elata*]

**AFRORMOSIA** is a tree. It is native to West Africa (particularly Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana). It is also known as African teak, *Assamela* (French and Ivorian), *Awawai* (Ghanaian and Ivorian), *Ayin* (Nigerian), Bar teaky, *Bohele* (Congolese), *Egbi* (Nigerian), Gold teak, *Kokrodua* (Ghanaian), *Mohole* (Ghanaian), *Obang* (Cameroonian), *Oleo pardo* (Congolese), Poor man's teak, and Red bark.

The yellowish-brown heartwood turns dark brown upon exposure to air.

Warning - working with the wood can cause respiratory problems, eye inflammation, and dermatitis.

From at least 1992 afrormosia has been included under Appendix II of CITES. This means that authorities believe this species will be seriously threatened if it is over-harvested and therefore trade in it should be monitored and controlled. Governments are required to issue export licences to certify that this species was legally acquired and that its exportation does not threaten the survival of that species in the wild there.

*Elata* means 'tall'

The strong and durable wood has been used for joinery, veneering, boatbuilding, decking, building interiors and parquet flooring, as well as for making furniture. It has also been used in hydraulic engineering machinery and some authorities consider it a viable alternative to teak (*Tectona grandis*).