

BOOKS

FICHAS DE PROPIEDADES TECNOLÓGICAS Y USOS DE MADERAS NATIVAS DE MÉXICO E IMPORTADAS by Jose Antonio Silva Guzmán, F. J. Fuentes Talavera, R. Rodríguez Anda, P. A. Torres Andrade, M. G. Lomelí Ramírez, J. Ramos Quirarte, C. Waitkus, H. G. Richter. 2010. Departamento de Madera, Celulosa y Papel, Centro de Investigación en Propiedades y Usos de la Madera, Guadalajara, México (in Spanish). ISBN 978-607-00-2894-6. 208 pp. Price: \$60, hardcover.

This fine book is a compilation of information on the tree and wood characteristics of 66 timber species used in Mexico. The book does an excellent job of introducing botanical nomenclature, and it discusses the criteria by which a species might be included in CITES Appendices. It defines the physical, anatomical, and mechanical properties that are used to evaluate woods. Excellent photographs of testing equipment add much to the understanding of the methods of collection of the mechanical properties data presented for each species.

Descriptions and data are presented in the form of “techsheets,” one for each wood (58 hardwoods,

seven softwoods, one palm). Each techsheet gives the nomenclature, a general description of the tree and its wood, the wood’s origin, CITES status, physical, mechanical, working, and drying properties, durability against fungus and insect attack, and uses. This information is followed by a list of references for further information. The techsheet section is supplemented by an atlas showing beautiful macroscopic color images of each species’ transverse and longitudinal surfaces.

If I had to find a fault with this book, it would be that the woods are arranged alphabetically by common name used in Mexico. For those not well versed in the Mexican names, finding a species requires examination of each entry in the three page index. The index is very clear, however, so this is not difficult to do.

Michael C. Wiemann
USDA Forest Service
Forest Products Laboratory
Madison, WI
E-mail: mwiemann@fs.fed.us