

**PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL CHARACTERIZATION
OF *PLANCHONELLA PACHYCARPA* WOOD SPECIES FOR
USE IN STRUCTURAL PURPOSE**

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to characterize the wood species Goiabão (*Planchonella pachycarpa*), following the precepts set forth in the Brazilian standard ABNT NBR 7190, as well as to evaluate the possibility of estimating physical and mechanical properties, using the analysis of variance (ANOVA) as a function of apparent density, and also to estimate the stiffness properties as a function of the respective strength property. The physical and mechanical properties were considered adequate for the use of this wood for structural purposes, being classified in class C40. According to the results of the regression models, it is possible to estimate the tensile strength parallel to the fibers as a function of the apparent density. It was also possible to estimate the longitudinal elastic modulus in the compression parallel to the fibers as a function of the compressive strength parallel to the fibers.

KEYWORDS: *Planchonella pachycarpa*, apparent density, regression models, analysis of variance (ANOVA).

INTRODUCTION

Considering that wood is a natural material, subject to different edaphoclimatic conditions (Lahr et al. 2016c, Silva et al. 2018, Morando et al. 2019) and that Brazil is the country with the largest number of tree species (Beech et al. 2017, Steege et al. 2016, ter Steege et al. 2019). The characterization of new species of wood must also be carried out so that there is no predatory use of known species, which can lead them to extinction (Cardoso et al. 2012, Couto et al. 2018, Nogueira et al. 2019). Thus, the species *Planchonella pachycarpa* can be an alternative for use with structural purposes. This species is present in the Brazilian states of Pará, Mato Grosso, Amazonas (Lorenzi 1998).

In Brazil, the characterization of wood species for structural use, as well as the requirements for dimensioning and classification of wood are recommended by the Brazilian standard ABNT NBR 7190 (ABNT 1997), on specimens with no defects. The characterization tests are analogous to those recommended in the international standard ISO 13061 (2017). An alternative to estimate physical and mechanical properties in a simple and effective way with the use of mathematical methods is to use the apparent density, defined as the ratio between mass and apparent volume at 12% moisture content, a property of easy experimental determination (Christoforo et al. 2017, Couto et al. 2018, Dias and Lahr 2004, Lahr et al. 2016c, Lobão et al. 2004).

In the design of wooden structures, such as bridges, roofs, walkways and residences, rigidity properties are used, as well as strength properties. How obtaining those properties requires a higher level of complexity in the equipment compared to obtaining the strength properties (Dadzie and Amoah 2015, Komariah et al. 2015, Logsdon et al. 2005, Machado et al. 2014, Ruelle et al. 2011), it is important to evaluate the possibility of estimating the stiffness properties as a function of the respective strength property.

Thus, this work aimed to present the physical and mechanical characterization of the wood species *Planchonella pachycarpa*, a wood species in which there are no studies in the literature. In addition to characterizing, this study aimed to evaluate the possibility of estimating physical and mechanical properties as a function of apparent density, rigidity properties as a function of the respective strength property, as well as evaluating the relationships between the strength properties and comparing with the arranged relationships in the Brazilian standard ABNT NBR 7190 (ABNT 1997).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The samples of *Planchonella pachycarpa* wood were properly stored, which resulted in equilibrium moisture content close to 12% according to ABNT NBR 7190 (1997). The tests were performed at the Laboratory of Wood and Wood Structures (LaMEM), Department of Structural Engineering (SET), São Carlos School of Engineering (EESC), University of São Paulo (USP). The physical and mechanical properties were obtained in accordance with the requirements of the Brazilian standard ABNT NBR 7190 (1997), set out in its Annex B, determining the following physical and mechanical properties: apparent density ($\rho_{ap,12\%}$), total radial shrinkage (TRR), total tangential shrinkage (TTR), compressive strength parallel to the grain (f_{c0}), tensile strength parallel to fibers (f_{t0}), tensile strength normal to the grain (f_{t90}), shear strength parallel to the grain (f_{v0}), splitting strength (f_{s0}), conventional strength on static bending test (f_m), modulus of elasticity in parallel directions to the grain (E_{c0}), modulus of elasticity in tension parallel to the grain (E_{t0}), conventional modulus of elasticity on static bending test (E_m), hardness parallel to the grain (f_{H0}), hardness normal to the grain (f_{H90}) and toughness (W). On Fig. 1, it is described the dimensions of wood specimens.

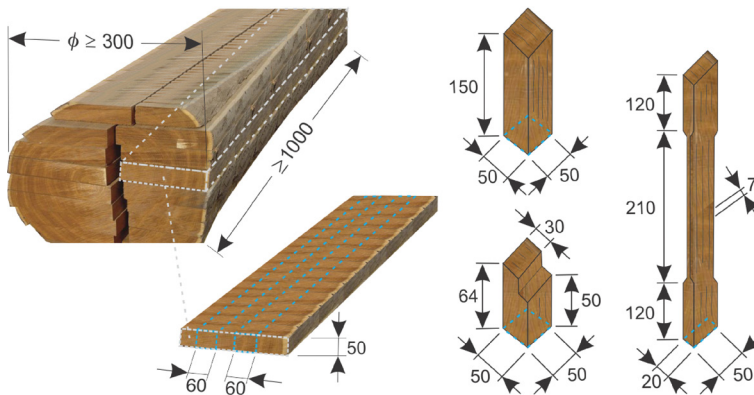


Fig. 1: Dimension of wood specimens and description of their extraction on timber (Dimension in mm). Source: Morando et al. (2019).

It should be noted that 15 values for each one of its physical (3) and mechanical properties (12) were investigated, resulting in 225 experimental values obtained. *Planchonella pachycarpa* wood was classified in the appropriate strength class (ABNT 1997) according to the characteristic value of the compressive strength parallel to the fibers ($f_{c0,k}$).

The classification of *Peltophorum vogelianum* wood in the strength classes for wood of the dicotyledon group was made using Eq. 1, where f_k is the characteristic strength value and n is the number of test pieces used. It should be noted from Eq. 1 that the results of strength should be placed in ascending order $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$, ignoring the highest value if the number of specimens is odd, and not taking f_k below f_1 nor 0.70 of the average value:

$$f_{c0,k} = \left(2 \cdot \frac{f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + \dots + f_{(n/2)-1}}{(n/2)-1} - f_{n/2} \right) \cdot 1.10 \quad (1)$$

Regression models (Eqs. 2-5) based on analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used to estimate the strength and stiffness properties as a function of the apparent density of the wood and also the stiffness as a function of strength, with Y being the estimated property (variable dependent), X the independent variable and b and the parameters adjusted by the Least squares method:

$$Y = a + b \cdot X \quad [\text{Lin} - \text{linear}] \quad (2)$$

$$Y = a \cdot e^{b \cdot X} \quad [\text{Exp} - \text{exponential}] \quad (3)$$

$$Y = a + b \cdot \text{Ln}(X) \quad [\text{Log} - \text{logarithmic}] \quad (4)$$

$$Y = a \cdot X^b \quad [\text{Geo} - \text{geometric}] \quad (5)$$

By the ANOVA of the regression models, it is considered at the level of 5% of significance (α), the null hypothesis formulated consisted of the non-representativeness of the tested models (H_0 ; $\beta = 0$) and in the representativeness as an alternative hypothesis. P-value higher than the significance level implies the acceptance of H_0 (the model is not representative - the variations of the independent variable are not able to explain the variations in the estimated properties), refuting it otherwise (the tested model is representative). The determination coefficient (R^2) was used to assess the quality of the adjustments obtained, making it possible to choose the best precision for each evaluated relationship. It should be noted that 56 regression models were used for density as an estimator of the fourteen other variables (including physical properties TRR and TTR), and 16 other models for strength properties as estimators of stiffness, which resulted in 72 equations in all.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tab. 1 presents the average values (X_m), coefficients of variation (C_v), maximum values (Max) and minimum values (Min), the confidence interval of the mean (CI - 95% reliability) of the physical and mechanical properties of the wood of Goiabão wood species, as well as the characteristic values of the mechanical properties.

Tab. 1: Descriptive statistics of experimentally obtained values for wood species *Planchonella pachycarpa*.

Property	X_m	Min	Max	CV (%)	CI	f_{wk}
$\rho_{ap,12\%}$ ($\text{g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$)	0.93	7.00	0.80	7.00	0.88; 0.97	-
TRR (%)	8.90	15.00	6.90	15.00	8.08; 9.71	-
TTR (%)	18.84	9.00	15.60	9.00	17.81; 19.86	-
f_{c0} (MPa)	48.40	12.00	41.00	12.00	44.58; 52.21	43.10
f_{t0} (MPa)	119.33	30.00	66.00	30.00	97.10; 141.57	70.13
f_{t90} (MPa)	8.70	22.00	5.20	22.00	7.49; 9.91	5.79
f_{v0} (MPa)	14.00	15.00	11.00	15.00	12.72; 15.27	12.14
f_{s0} (MPa)	1.16	26.00	0.90	26.00	0.97; 1.35	1.01
f_M (MPa)	106.50	12.00	84.00	12.00	99.14; 113.85	91.12
E_{c0} (MPa)	18716	15.00	13501	15.00	16982; 20449	-
E_{t0} (MPa)	18267	17.00	11468	17.00	16294; 20240	-

E_M (MPa)	18367	16.00	14361	16.00	16488; 20245	-
f_{H0} (MPa)	109.67	6.00	93.00	6.00	105.86; 113.48	114.56
f_{H90} (MPa)	100.00	8.00	81.00	8.00	94.91; 105.09	104.04
W (N·m)	21.09	20.00	12.90	20.00	18.48; 23.69	-

Considering the characteristic value of the compressive strength parallel to the $f_{c0,k}$ (43 MPa) fibers of *Planchonella pachycarpa* wood, this wood is classified as C40 of dicotyledons, the same class of wood species *Erismia uncinatum* (Almeida et al. 2019), *Vataireopsis araroba* (Almeida et al. 2016), *Vatairea sp.* (Lahr et al. 2016a), *Mimosa caesalpiniaefolia* (Nascimento et al. 2018) and *Copaifera sp.* (Aquino et al. 2018a), wood species used for structural purposes (ABNT 1997). Considering the data in the literature, the value of compressive strength parallel to Goiabão fibers is close to that found by Dias and Lahr (49 MPa) (Dias and Lahr 2004), a value close to that found in the present work. The Goiabão wood species can be considered very heavy ($\rho_{ap,12\%} = 0.92 \text{ g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$) (Dias and Lahr 2004), with density similar to the species *Manilkara huberi* and *Mezilaurus itauba* (Silveira et al. 2013).

Evaluating the values of the coefficients of variation, the Brazilian standard ABNT NBR 7190 (ABNT 1997) establishes that the maximum value of the coefficient of variation for the characterization if considered adequate, that is, to have statistical significance without further analysis, must be 18% for normal efforts and 28% for tangential efforts. The tensile strength parallel to the grain (f_{t0}) property presented a value above that allowed by norm. This may occur due to the inherent variability in the tensile strength test parallel to the fibers (Christoforo et al. 2020, Pertuzzatti et al. 2018), as well as the shape of the rupture, in which it is fragile, as well as the rupture plane in the tested specimen, which can be explained by internal anatomical structure, which demands more studies on such a rupture (Morando et al. 2019). Tab. 2 presents the best adjustments obtained using regression models for the apparent density in the estimation of the other properties, underlining the models considered significant by ANOVA (5% significance).

Tab. 2: Regression models based on apparent density as an estimator of the other properties.

Property	Regression model (ANOVA)	P-value	a	b	R ² (%)
TRR	Logarithmic	0.4200	8.61	- 4.35	6.60
TTR	Linear	0.7518	21.03	- 2.34	1.05
f_{c0}	Exponential	0.2584	26.80	0.62	12.55
f_{t0}	Exponential	<u>0.0001</u>	2.83	3.93	81.21
f_{i90}	Logarithmic	0.3558	9.18	7.20	8.57
f_{v0}	Geometric	0.3696	13.31	- 0.59	8.11
f_{s0}	Linear	0.2681	-0.24	1.49	12.09
f_M	Geometric	0.2604	109.91	0.58	12.46
f_{H0}	Linear	0.8716	105.29	4.65	0.27
f_{H90}	Geometric	0.6216	98.50	- 0.18	2.53
W	Exponential	0.3653	46.49	- 0.86	8.25
E_{c0}	Geometric	0.2345	19459.84	0.74	13.80
E_{t0}	Geometric	<u>0.0136</u>	20118.27	1.68	47.14
E_M	Geometric	0.0801	19453.19	1.02	27.48

The apparent density was considered significant only in the estimate of the tensile strength

parallel to the fibers (f_{t0}) ($R^2 = 81.21\%$) and longitudinal elastic modulus in the tensile parallel to the fibers (E_{t0}) ($R^2 = 47.14\%$), with the exponential and geometric models of best fit for these properties, respectively. Fig. 2 illustrates the two regression models considered significant.

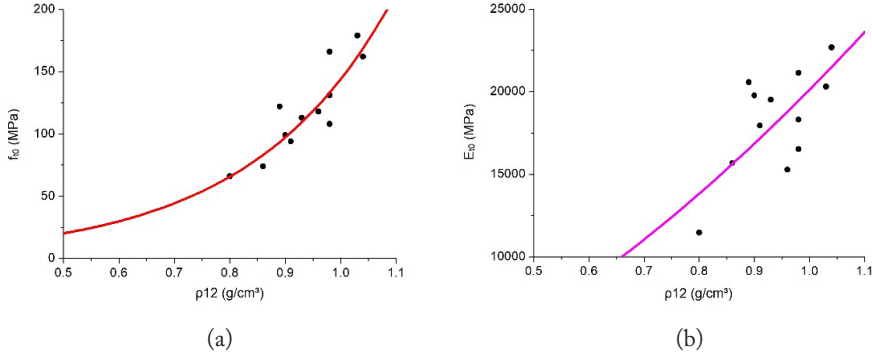


Fig. 2: Graph of the density models as an estimation of the tensile strength (a) and of the longitudinal elastic modulus in the tension (b).

Observing the adjustments considered significant shown in Tab. 3, it can be considered that it is possible to use the apparent density as an estimator of the tensile strength parallel to the fibers due to the high value of the coefficient of determination, with good quality in the adjustment ($R^2 > 70\%$). However, for the tensile modulus it is not possible due to the poor quality of the fit. In several works in the literature it was not possible to find significant relationships between physical and mechanical density and property (Aquino et al. 2018b, Christoforo et al. 2019, Lahr et al. 2016b, Montgomery 2012, Morando et al. 2019, Nogueira et al. 2019).

Tab. 3 illustrates the best adjustments obtained in the estimation of the stiffness properties as a function of the respective strength property.

Tab. 3: Regression models for estimating stiffness properties as a function of strength properties.

Property	Regression model (ANOVA)	P-value	a	b	Expression	R ² (%)
E_{c0}	Logarithmic	<u>0.0001</u>	-57362	19644	$E_{c0} = a + b \cdot \ln(f_{c0})$	79.13
E_{t0}	Geometric	<u>0.0179</u>	2638	0.40	$E_{t0} = a \cdot f_{t0}^b$	44.41
E_M	Logarithmic	0.6964	4600	2954	$E_M = a + b \cdot \ln(f_m)$	1.59

Considering the data in Tab. 3, it appears that the models using the modules of longitudinal elasticity to parallel compression and parallel traction were significant. Based on the quality of the fit, the resistance to parallel compression can be used to estimate the elasticity module to compression parallel to the fibers ($R^2 > 70\%$). As for the longitudinal elastic modulus in traction, this is not possible due to the poor quality of the fit. In the literature, Guarucaia wood specie did not present significant models for estimating the rigidity property as a function of the respective strength (Christoforo et al. 2019). Fig. 3 shows the models considered significant.

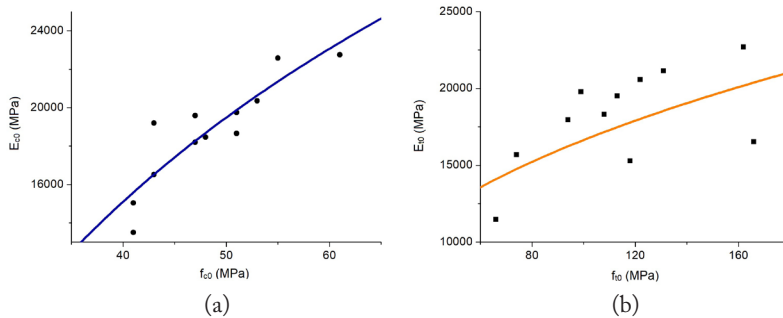


Fig. 3: Graph of the strength (compression and tension parallel to the grain) models as an estimation of the longitudinal elastic modulus on compression (a) and of the longitudinal elastic modulus in the tension (b).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results presented in the present research, it is concluded that the characterization of the species *Planchonella pachycarpa* was adequate, following the precepts presented in the Brazilian standard ABNT NBR 7190. The Goiabão species was classified in class C40 of the hardwoods, based on the characteristic value of the compressive strength parallel to the fibers (ABNT 1997). This classification indicates the possibility of using Goiabão wood species for structural purposes. Evaluating the significant regression models, the apparent density can be used to estimate the tensile strength parallel to the fibers as well as to estimate the longitudinal elasticity module to the compression parallel to the fibers as a function of the compressive strength parallel to the fibers. The models showed good quality in the fit, which shows the possibility of use.

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