OBECHE / AYOUS  
(Triplochiton scleroxylon)

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** West and Central Africa Tropics  
VPA country supply: Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, the Republic of Congo

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Not listed by CITES  
IUCN species of least concern  
Also known as African maple

**MAIN USES:** Obeche is described as ‘soft and lightweight, for a hardwood’ making it an ideal candidate for furniture, interior joinery, carvings, woodwork, surfboards, veneer and plywood  
Good strength properties considering light weight variables of the timber

**TECHNICAL:** Difficulty drying, tendency to warp  
Grain is straight, can be slightly interlocked or tight  
Texture is medium to coarse

**DURABILITY:** Poor durability, poor insect resistance

**WORKING:** Mostly easy to work  
Obeche is reported as easy to saw, suitable for sliced veneer with slight blunting effects  
Glues well, nails and machines easily although some difficulties can occur due to interlocking grain  
Excellent finish can be obtained, stains and polishes well

**ALSO KNOWN AS:**  
Wawa  
Obechi  
Sambawawa  
Arere

**MOISTURE MOVEMENT:** Small

**WEIGHT (Green):** 550-700 kg/m³

**SIZES:** 25mm, 32mm, 38mm, 50mm, 63mm, 75mm, 100mm  
Average length (m) 2.7m, between 1.8-4.8

**COLOUR:** Pale white/ straw yellow, darkens slightly with age

**PRICING:** Medium

**SUBSTITUTE FOR:** Top quality softwood

**AVAILABILITY:** Available from specialist merchants, check sustainability with supplier