

General information

Designation

Ochroma spp. (MD) L

Tradenames

FLEXICORE, CONTOURKORE, PRO-BALSA

Typical uses

Cores for sandwich structures; model building; floatation; insulation;

Composition overview

Compositional summary

Cellulose/Hemicellulose/Lignin/12%H₂O

Material family	Natural		
Base material	Wood (tropical)		
Renewable content	100		%

Composition detail (polymers and natural materials)

Wood	100		%
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Price

Price	* 6.7	-	10.8	USD/kg
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Physical properties

Density	170	-	210	kg/m ³
Relative density	0.1	-	0.15	
Cells/volume	500	-	1e3	/mm ³
Anisotropy ratio	10	-	30	

Mechanical properties

Young's modulus	4.2	-	5.2	GPa
Yield strength (elastic limit)	* 11.4	-	14	MPa
Tensile strength	16	-	25	MPa
Elongation	* 1.03	-	1.26	% strain
Compressive strength	8.5	-	12.5	MPa
Compressive stress @ 25% strain	7.5	-	9	MPa
Flexural modulus	3.4	-	4.2	GPa
Flexural strength (modulus of rupture)	18	-	22	MPa
Shear modulus	* 0.31	-	0.38	GPa
Shear strength	* 3.2	-	3.9	MPa
Bulk modulus	* 0.08	-	0.1	GPa
Poisson's ratio	* 0.35	-	0.4	

Shape factor	5.5			
Hardness - Vickers	* 0.35	-	0.43	HV
Hardness - Brinell	* 9.3	-	11.3	MPa
Hardness - Janka	* 0.35	-	0.43	kN
Fatigue strength at 10 ⁷ cycles	* 5.4	-	6.6	MPa
Mechanical loss coefficient (tan delta)	* 0.0122	-	0.015	
Densification strain	0.65	-	0.75	
Differential shrinkage (radial)	* 0.05	-	0.06	%
Differential shrinkage (tangential)	* 0.07	-	0.09	%
Radial shrinkage (green to oven-dry)	* 3.2	-	7	%
Tangential shrinkage (green to oven-dry)	4	-	4.8	%
Volumetric shrinkage (green to oven-dry)	6.8	-	8.3	%
Work to maximum strength	* 13	-	15.9	kJ/m ³

Impact & fracture properties

Fracture toughness	0.5	-	0.6	MPa.m ^{0.5}
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Thermal properties

Glass temperature	77	-	102	°C
Maximum service temperature	120	-	140	°C
Minimum service temperature	* -73	-	-23	°C
Thermal conductivity	* 0.09	-	0.12	W/m.°C
Specific heat capacity	1.66e3	-	1.71e3	J/kg.°C
Thermal expansion coefficient	* 2	-	11	µstrain/°C

Electrical properties

Electrical resistivity	* 6e13	-	2e14	µohm.cm
Dielectric constant (relative permittivity)	* 2.45	-	3	
Dissipation factor (dielectric loss tangent)	* 0.021	-	0.026	
Dielectric strength (dielectric breakdown)	4.85	-	4.9	MV/m

Magnetic properties

Magnetic type	Non-magnetic			
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Optical properties

Transparency	Opaque			
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Durability

Water (fresh)	Limited use			
Water (salt)	Limited use			
Weak acids	Limited use			

Strong acids	Unacceptable
Weak alkalis	Limited use
Strong alkalis	Unacceptable
Organic solvents	Acceptable
Oxidation at 500C	Unacceptable
UV radiation (sunlight)	Good
Flammability	Highly flammable

Primary production energy, CO2 and water

Embodied energy, primary production	* 11.6	-	12.8	MJ/kg
CO2 footprint, primary production	* 0.574	-	0.633	kg/kg
Water usage	* 665	-	735	l/kg

Processing energy, CO2 footprint & water

Coarse machining energy (per unit wt removed)	* 0.993	-	1.1	MJ/kg
Coarse machining CO2 (per unit wt removed)	* 0.0745	-	0.0823	kg/kg
Fine machining energy (per unit wt removed)	* 5.66	-	6.25	MJ/kg
Fine machining CO2 (per unit wt removed)	* 0.424	-	0.469	kg/kg
Grinding energy (per unit wt removed)	* 10.8	-	12	MJ/kg
Grinding CO2 (per unit wt removed)	* 0.813	-	0.899	kg/kg

Recycling and end of life

Recycle	✗			
Recycle fraction in current supply	8.55	-	9.45	%
Downcycle	✓			
Combust for energy recovery	✓			
Heat of combustion (net)	* 19.8	-	21.3	MJ/kg
Combustion CO2	* 1.69	-	1.78	kg/kg
Landfill	✓			
Biodegrade	✓			

Notes

Warning

All woods have properties which show variation; they depend principally on growth conditions and moisture content.

Links

ProcessUniverse

Reference

Shape