

# ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

## LONG-FIBER LIGHT-WEIGHT TIMBER

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The trunk of euphorbia candelabrum and other plants of the genus euphorbiaceae could not be utilised to date as timber on account of the fact that soon after the trees are cut, their woody portion decays into a decomposed useless mass. Chemical treatments have been resorted to in an attempt to make the wood of euphorbia candelabrum durable, but without success, so that it has not been possible to utilise this tree which abounds in the territories situated at altitudes between 1000 and 2000 meters on the sea level in all tropical and sub-tropical regions of Africa and America.

The object of this invention is to provide a novel industrial product consisting of the woody portion of the trunk of euphorbia candelabrum and similar plants of the genus euphorbiaceae rendered perfectly and unlimitedly durable and a process for obtaining same. The timber obtained possesses peculiar properties which are not inherent to any other wood, viz. a specific gravity of about 0.32, water-proofness, elasticity and indeformability at the different temperatures; moreover, it is highly harmonic, unattacked by wood-worms, termites and other insects.

The process conferring to the wood the above valuable properties consists in subjecting the trunk of euphorbia candelabrum or similar plant of the genus euphorbiaceae within a few days after it has been cut, to a mechanical treatment for the total removal of the pith contained in its

centre and of the bark. It is essential to remove all of the pith from the trunk, as even a small quantity of the pithy substance remaining in the centre of the trunk would lead to a rapid alteration and decomposition of the wood.

As the pith is a gelatinous substance and the central duct is of a width of about seven centimeters and of a star-shaped or square section, the thorough removal of the pith is commercially carried out conveniently by means of a brush, which separates the pith from every recess of the central bore and brings it to the outside, while any pith residue, which might injuriously affect durability if left in the wood, is conveniently removed by means of a jet of compressed air.

The bark is then stripped from the trunk and this is allowed to season in order to eliminate the moisture contained therein, whereupon the wood is for the first time ready for commercial use; the timber lends itself to a great variety of uses on account of its valuable properties.

The juice yielded by the trunk as it is being stripped of the bark, which contains a number of useful products, chiefly creosotes, resins, formalin, isoprene and oils, is a useful by-product of the process, that may be profitably utilised for commercial purposes.

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