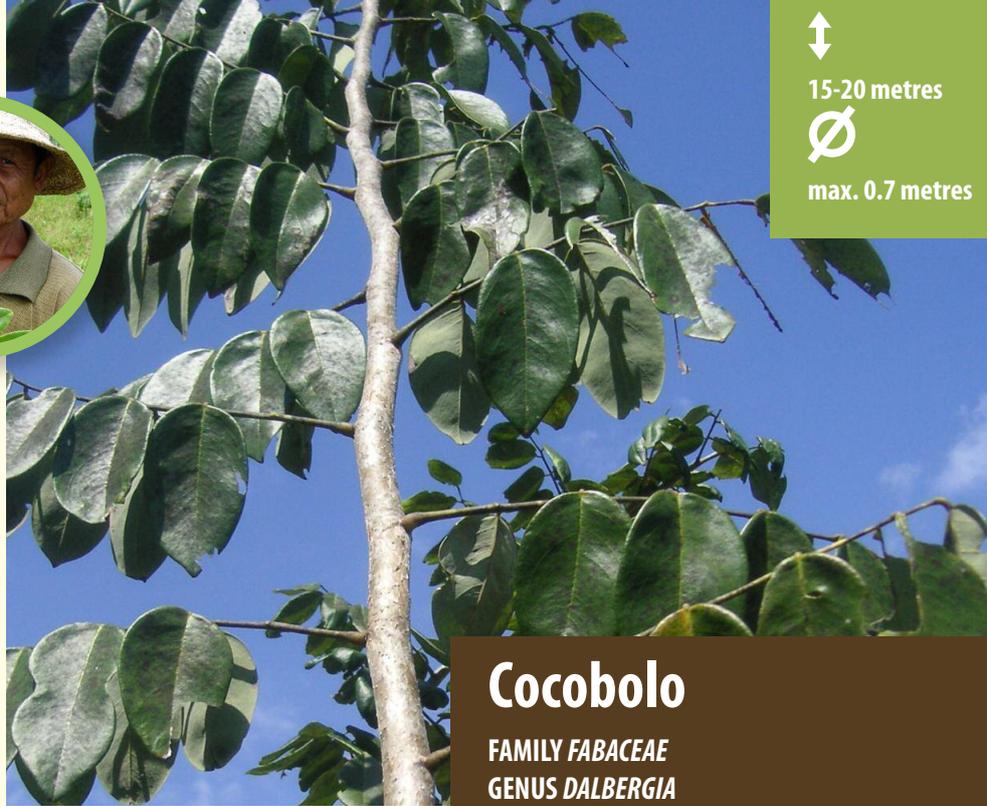


# Cocobolo



↑  
15-20 metres  
∅  
max. 0.7 metres

## Occurrence

The cocobolo tree is native to southern Mexico, the Pacific coast of Central America, Colombia and Venezuela. It grows on loamy, sandy and well-drained moist soils at altitudes between 50 and 300 metres above sea level.

## Significance

The roots of the tree can fix nitrogen particularly well. The wood is largely resistant to insect infestation and is often used for craftsmanship.

## Threats

The cocobolo tree is in sharp decline, as the tree is cut down a lot and its natural habitat is threatened. As a result it is listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

## At ForestFinance

The cocobolo tree grows on our fincas in Vietnam in the Quang Ninh region and in Panama in the regions of Darién, Veraguas, Panama and Chiriquí.

## Characteristics



### Leaves

*Young trees can be recognised by their apple green leaves. Only as they age do they turn dark green and take on a leathery texture. The alternate leaves are 6-10 cm long.*



### Bark

*The bark is initially smooth and brown-greyish. Later, it changes to a dark brown bark with longitudinal cracks.*



### Fruits

*Up to 13 cm long legumes hang from the branches in groups of four or five. They each contain up to five seeds.*



### Flowers

*The white, paniced flowers have a bell-shaped calyx and are also called butterfly flowers.*

## Cocobolo

FAMILY FABACEAE

GENUS DALBERGIA

SPECIES DALBERGIA RETUSA



# Cocobolo

## Description of wood

The wood is very popular because it is particularly hard. The most striking feature is the colour of the heartwood, which has beautiful red and brown shades. The sapwood has a delicate light yellow colour. If treated, the surface becomes shiny and at the same time resistant to weather effects.



## Cocobolo

FAMILY *FABACEAE*  
GENUS *DALBERGIA*  
SPECIES *DALBERGIA RETUSA*

DENSITY

0.8-0.9 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

JANKA HARDNESS

1136 lbf



## Sun lover

The cocobolo tree prefers plenty of light and is particularly tolerant to sunlight and heat. Therefore it grows best in not too densely wooded areas and serves as a shade for other plants.



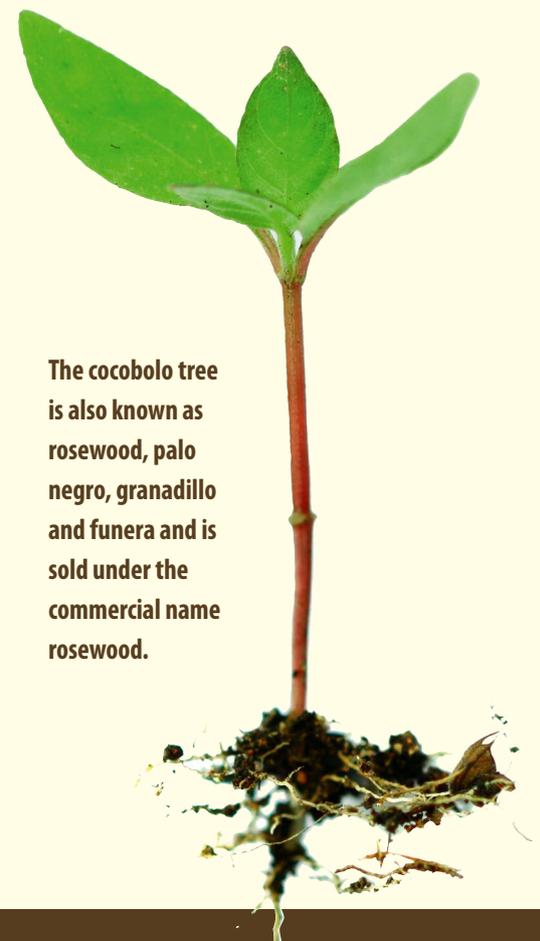
## Processing

The wood is particularly popular in craftsmanship. Freshly cut, it is light and only develops its characteristic colour later. The wood is also used to make furniture, knife handles and musical instruments.



## Growth

The cocobolo tree grows relatively slowly. In order to counteract the typical strong branch formation, a small plant distance is chosen on plantations. The closely spaced, competing trees can therefore grow faster.



The cocobolo tree is also known as rosewood, palo negro, granadillo and funera and is sold under the commercial name rosewood.