

Structure and Draft

Assessing the Suitability of *Paubrasilia echinata* Bow Blanks for Stringed-Instrument Bow Making

Structure and Draft of an International Empirical Study of Professional Assessment Practice, Material Assessment, and Sustainable Resource Use

FINAL

June 2026

Thomas M. Gerbeth

Master Bow Maker
Vienna, Austria

Preliminary Note

This document sets out the draft of an international empirical study of the professional assessment of *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks for modern stringed-instrument bow making.

Its central question is the criteria by which bow makers, violin makers, and dealers (collectively referred to below as specialists) assess individual bow blanks, and how they weigh anatomical, structural, visual, and physical material characteristics in relation to the intended use. The study is concerned not with abstract ideals of the material, but with the actual assessment practice of these professional groups.

The draft rests on the premise that the suitability of a bow blank cannot be inferred from individual measurements, isolated visible characteristics, or statements of volume alone. What is decisive is the specialist's overall assessment of the material. This takes account, among other factors, of the degree and position of particular characteristics, their possible interaction, the intended quality segment, and the planned use of the future bow stick.

The project combines the structured collection of professional experience with methods of empirical social research and, where available, objectively measurable material parameters. It is intended to provide a basis on which professional assessment decisions can be documented transparently, compared, and placed in scientific context.

This document is expressly not presented as a completed study, nor does it anticipate its findings. It proposes research questions, data-collection instruments, approaches to analysis, and possible further lines of inquiry. All instruments, terms, and methodological decisions are to be examined scientifically, tested in a pretest, and refined where necessary before an international survey is undertaken.

Executive Summary

Selecting suitable bow blanks is among the most demanding and consequential decisions in modern stringed-instrument bow making. It affects not only the technical working of the material, but also the later function, durability, playability, and placement of a bow within a particular quality segment.

Although a differentiated professional assessment practice has developed over generations, little research has so far examined the criteria specialists actually use when assessing individual bow blanks. Existing literature deals primarily with botanical, historical, ecological, and materials-science aspects of *Paubrasilia echinata*. An internationally comparative empirical study of professional assessment practice in relation to individual bow blanks is still largely absent.

The planned study is intended to address this gap. It investigates which material characteristics specialists regard as essential, which can be assessed as acceptable depending on their degree, position, or quality segment, and under what conditions a bow blank is considered unsuitable. It distinguishes between prospective assessment of blanks for new bow making and retrospective assessment of finished or existing bows.

At the centre of the study is a shared data-collection instrument with two methodologically coordinated survey routes. Routing A is addressed to bow makers and concerns the selection, working, and intended use of bow blanks in new making. Routing B is addressed to violin makers and dealers and additionally considers the technical appraisal of existing bows and questions of market acceptance, restoration, repair, documentation, and legal marketability under conservation law.

Questions concerning the material are supported by standardised image references. These are intended to present typical anatomical, structural, and visual characteristics as consistently as possible and to permit comparable assessments. For relevant characteristics, different degrees of expression and, where professionally meaningful, different positions along the bow stick are taken into account.

The study also records information on physical properties and selection methods, including density, modulus of elasticity, speed of sound, weight, and other parameters used in practice. These data are not to be understood as isolated proof of quality, but in relation to the professional overall assessment of the material.

The investigation follows a mixed-methods approach. The standardised international survey permits comparative quantitative analyses. Structured expert interviews are intended to supplement it where findings require explanation, where there is clear consensus or disagreement, or where particular assessment patterns require professional interpretation.

The aim is to document professional experiential knowledge systematically, make commonalities and differences between professional groups visible, and describe the practical assessment of bow blanks in a scientifically transparent way. The findings may provide a stronger basis for research, education, professional practice, material documentation, and differentiated use of existing resources.

Contents

1.	Introduction	6
1.1.	Context and Subject of the Study	6
1.2.	Research Gap	6
1.3.	Objectives.....	7
1.4.	Key Terms and Delimitations	7
1.5.	Underlying Assumption of the Study	8
2.	Research Questions and Guiding Assumptions	9
2.1.	Development of the Research Questions	9
2.2.	Central Research Questions.....	9
2.3.	Guiding Assumptions of the Study.....	10
2.4.	Significance for Subsequent Analysis.....	11
3.	Research Design and Methodology	12
3.1.	Basic Structure of the Study.....	12
3.2.	International Specialist Survey.....	12
3.3.	Survey Route A: Bow Makers.....	12
3.4.	Survey Route B: Violin Makers and Dealers.....	13
3.5.	Standardised Image References	13
3.6.	Assessment System and Material Characteristics	14
3.7.	Expert Interviews	14
3.8.	Pretest and Quality Assurance.....	15
4.	Sample, Data Collection, and Analysis.....	16
4.1.	Target Group and Participation Requirements.....	16
4.2.	Recruitment of Participants.....	16
4.3.	Recording Professional Background	16
4.4.	Conduct of Data Collection	16
4.5.	Data Protection and Handling of Sensitive Information	17
4.6.	Quantitative Analysis	17
4.7.	Qualitative Analysis.....	18
4.8.	Integration of the Data	18
5.	Discussion and Contextualisation of the Findings	19
5.1.	Function of the Discussion	19
5.2.	Technical Suitability, Practical Usability, and Quality Segment	19
5.3.	Degree, Position, and Interaction of Material Characteristics.....	19
5.4.	Physical Properties and Professional Overall Assessment.....	20
5.5.	Differences between Survey Routes A and B.....	20
5.6.	Resource Use and Professional Usability	20
5.7.	Documentation and Legal Marketability	21
5.8.	Limitations of the Study	21
6.	Planned Presentation of Findings, Possible Conclusions, and Outlook.....	22
6.1.	Integration of the Findings.....	22
6.2.	Conclusions	22
6.3.	Recommendations for Professional Practice	23
6.4.	Further Research Needs.....	23
6.5.	Outlook	24
7.	Work Programme and Planned Project Sequence	25
7.1.	Scientific Validation.....	25
7.2.	Pretest of the Data-Collection Instrument	25
7.3.	Preparation of the International Survey	25
7.4.	International Field Phase	26

7.5.	Data Preparation and Initial Analysis	26
7.6.	In-Depth Expert Interviews	26
7.7.	Overall Analysis and Scientific Contextualisation	26
7.8.	Preparation of the Findings	27
7.9.	Provisional Timetable.....	27
8.	Notes on the Appendix	28

1. Introduction

1.1. Context and Subject of the Study

Since the late eighteenth century, *Paubrasilia echinata* has provided the essential material basis for modern stringed-instrument bow making. Its combination of density, elasticity, strength, workability, and distinctive material behaviour permits the production of bow sticks that meet demanding technical, tonal, and mechanical requirements.

The suitability of an individual bow blank, however, cannot be inferred solely from its species, a single measurement, or an isolated visible characteristic. In professional practice, selection rests on an overall assessment. This encompasses anatomical, structural, visual, and physical properties, together with their degree, position, and possible interaction within the areas of the blank intended for the future bow stick.

A distinction must therefore be drawn between the general suitability of the material and the suitability of a particular blank. While *Paubrasilia echinata* has long been established as a material for modern stringed-instrument bow making, the practical usability of individual blanks can vary considerably. A blank may be suitable for one quality segment but not another. It may be usable under design or craft conditions or ruled out because of individual characteristics or their interaction.

Assessment is consequently not carried out according to a uniform scheme that could be applied irrespective of context and intended use. It combines visible material characteristics with professional experience, expectations regarding the future function of the bow stick, the intended quality segment, and the question of whether the material can be used sensibly in the case.

The planned study addresses this professional assessment practice. It examines how specialists assess *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks, which characteristics influence their decisions, and where common assessment patterns or differing professional judgements can be identified.

1.2. Research Gap

Botanical, historical, ecological, and materials-science aspects of *Paubrasilia echinata* have been addressed in numerous publications. These include studies of the species' distribution and conservation status, wood anatomy, growth, and material properties, physical and mechanical parameters, as well as reforestation, provenance, and sustainable resource use.

By contrast, there has been only limited research into how specialists assess the suitability of individual bow blanks in their professional practice. Specialist literature, workshop traditions, and individual accounts of experience contain numerous references to selection criteria. However, an internationally comparative empirical study that records these criteria systematically, differentiates them by material characteristic, and relates them to intended use has so far been available only in rudimentary form.

There is therefore no robust documentation of:

- which characteristics specialists regularly regard as relevant to their decisions;
- which degrees of expression are assessed as acceptable, acceptable with limitations, or unacceptable;
- how the position of a characteristic on a blank influence its assessment;
- what differences exist between student, orchestral, and master/soloist bows;
- in which areas bow makers, violin makers, and dealers express similar or differing assessments; and
- what role physical material parameters play within the professional overall assessment.

This gap concerns more than the description of craft practice. It also makes it more difficult to distinguish professionally between questions in which the actual usability of bow blanks, the appraisal of existing bow sticks, and the responsible use of limited material resources are relevant.

1.3. Objectives

The aim of the study is to record professional assessment practice relating to *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks systematically and internationally. It is intended to document the criteria by which specialists judge the suitability of individual blanks and the importance they attach to different material characteristics about their later use.

The investigation will address the following questions in particular:

1. which anatomical, structural, visual, and physical material characteristics are relevant in professional assessment;
2. which characteristics regularly lead to rejection and which can be accepted depending on degree, position, combination with other characteristics, or intended quality segment;
3. how assessment standards differ between student, orchestral, and master/soloist bows;
4. what commonalities and differences exist between the perspectives of bow makers and those of violin makers and dealers;
5. how experience-based professional judgements relate to objectively measurable material parameters;
6. whether and how assessment standards have changed under altered conditions of material availability, professional practice, and the regulatory environment; and
7. what indications the findings may provide for differentiated use of existing bow blanks and bows.

The investigation is not intended to establish binding thresholds for the suitability of bow blanks. Rather, it is intended to make visible the assessment patterns present within the international professional community, describe their differences transparently, and thereby provide a basis for further scientific, professional, and educational work.

1.4. Key Terms and Delimitations

In the following, the term “specialists” collectively refers to bow makers, violin makers, and dealers unless a distinction between the professional groups is made explicitly.

A bow blank is understood as a piece of *Paubrasilia echinata* wood intended for making a bow stick or assessed with such use in mind. The study concerns not wood volume or raw material in general but bow blanks as concrete starting materials for stringed-instrument bow making.

The suitability of a bow blank means the professional judgement as to whether it is suitable, suitable with limitations, or unsuitable for a particular future use in bow making. This judgement may concern the blank, particular areas of the intended bow stick, or a specific quality segment.

The study distinguishes three quality segments:

- **student bows, intended for entry-level and training contexts;**
- **orchestral bows, intended for advanced musicians and professional orchestral work;**
- **master/soloist bows, which place the highest demands on material, workmanship, and subsequent musical use.**

These categories serve to compare different professional requirements. They do not replace individual quality judgements or company-specific or regional classifications.

The study also distinguishes between prospective assessment of bow blanks for new making and retrospective assessment of existing bows. The two perspectives are connected but arise from different decision situations. While bow makers primarily assess the later working and function of a blank, violin makers and dealers also take account, for existing bows, of condition, repair history, restorability, market acceptance, documentation, and legal marketability under conservation law.

1.5. Underlying Assumption of the Study

The study proceeds from the testable guiding assumption that professional assessment of a bow blank cannot be reduced to a single criterion. Its suitability is assumed to be shaped by the interaction of several factors.

These factors include the relevant material characteristic, its degree, its position on the blank or future bow stick, the intended quality segment, other possible material characteristics, physical properties, expected workability, and the professional experience of the person making the assessment.

This guiding assumption is not treated as a fixed result. It will be examined and differentiated based on the standardised survey, supplementary free-text responses, and, where appropriate, structured expert interviews.

2. Research Questions and Guiding Assumptions

2.1. Development of the Research Questions

The research questions arise from the objective of recording professional assessment practice relating to *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks transparently and analysing it scientifically. They are linked to the data-collection instrument, the two survey routes, the standardised image references, and the catalogue of evaluation-oriented research questions.

The investigation is not designed to establish a binding ranking of individual material characteristics or to define universally applicable technical thresholds. Instead, it is intended to show which assessment patterns exist in international professional practice, where agreement is evident, and where differences arise according to professional group, experience, quality segment, or intended use.

The individual research questions will be addressed using quantitative and qualitative methods. Standardised response formats permit comparison of assessments. Free-text fields and, where appropriate, in-depth expert interviews are intended to capture professional reasoning, exceptions, and relationships that cannot be fully represented in predefined response categories.

The research questions are operationalised in the data-collection instrument of the planned online survey. It begins with question blocks 1 and 2, which are common to all participants. Following the profile section, participants are automatically directed to Routing A for bow makers or Routing B for violin makers and dealers. All participants then proceed to the shared question block 4. The complete question catalogue is documented in the appendix as part of the data-collection instrument.

2.2. Central Research Questions

The study addresses the following central question:

By what criteria do specialists assess the suitability of individual *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks for modern stringed-instrument bow making?

1. Which anatomical, structural, visual, and physical material characteristics are relevant to this assessment?
2. Which material characteristics regularly lead to rejection of a bow blank, and which may be accepted depending on degree, position, combination with other characteristics, or intended quality segment?
3. What role does the position of a material characteristic within the intended bow stick play, in the head, neck, middle, winding area, and visible end of the stick?
4. How do assessment standards differ between student, orchestral, and master/soloist bows?
5. What relationships exist between the assessment of individual material characteristics, expected workability, later material behaviour, and intended use of a bow blank?
6. What significance do physical properties such as density, modulus of elasticity, speed of sound, stick-only weight, total finished-bow weight, and balance point have within the professional overall assessment?
7. Which combinations of physical properties are assessed in professional practice as favourable, suitable with limitations, or problematic?
8. How do bow makers' assessments when selecting blanks differ from those of violin makers and dealers when appraising existing bows?
9. Which material characteristics primarily influence selection for new making, and which become particularly important in existing bows with respect to condition, repair, restoration, market acceptance, marketability, or long-term use?
10. What commonalities and differences exist between professional groups, levels of experience, specialisations, and regional contexts?
11. In which areas is there evidence of broad professional consensus, and for which characteristics or assessment questions do views differ substantially?

12. Have assessment standards changed over time, particularly in relation to changed material availability, professional experience, and the development of specialist knowledge?
13. What conclusions may be drawn from the findings for differentiated and resource-conscious use of existing bow blanks and bows?
14. To what extent can the findings help describe the actual professional usability of bow blanks more transparently, without reducing it to considerations of volume, weight, or individual measurements?

Questions concerning documentation, evidence, and legal marketability under conservation law are addressed exclusively in Routing B. They relate to existing bows and their practical appraisal in a professional context. They must therefore be clearly distinguished from the material-related core questions concerning the technical and craft suitability of a bow blank.

2.3. Guiding Assumptions of the Study

The investigation proceeds from several guiding assumptions. They do not serve to confirm predetermined expectations, but to structure data collection and analysis. They will be critically examined in the light of the data collected and adjusted where necessary.

First Guiding Assumption:

The assessment of bow blanks is fundamentally based on an overall appraisal of several interrelated material characteristics. Individual characteristics may be relevant to a decision, but their significance often becomes apparent only in interaction with other properties of the material.

Second Guiding Assumption:

The professional relevance of a material characteristic depends not only on its presence. Its degree, extent, position within the intended bow stick, and relation to other material characteristics may also be decisive.

Third Guiding Assumption:

The acceptability of a material characteristic may differ according to the intended quality segment. A characteristic that is not accepted for a master/soloist bow may, under certain conditions, be professionally defensible in an orchestral or student bow.

Fourth Guiding Assumption:

Assessment standards differ between professional groups. At the same time, the study will examine whether a shared core of fundamental professional assessment criteria can be identified.

Fifth Guiding Assumption:

The study will examine whether, and to what extent, comprehensible relationships exist between professional assessments and objectively measurable material parameters. These parameters may support professional assessment, but they do not fully explain the complexity of practical selection decisions.

Sixth Guiding Assumption:

Selecting a bow blank for new making and assessing an existing bow are related but not identical decision situations. Existing bows introduce additional considerations, including condition, reparability, restoration, market acceptance, documentation, and legal marketability.

Seventh Guiding Assumption:

Changed conditions of material availability, professional exchange, and the regulatory environment may have led to further development of professional assessment standards. The study will examine whether this is reflected in participants' assessments.

Eighth Guiding Assumption:

The study examines whether professional suitability can be described more precisely than through the simple opposition of “usable” and “not usable”.

2.4. Significance for Subsequent Analysis

The research questions and guiding assumptions provide the frame of reference for subsequent data analysis and for interpretation of the findings. They serve to order the data systematically and distinguish between different levels of statement.

Three levels must be distinguished:

First, the direct survey results, such as frequencies, means, distributions, or differences between groups.

Second, the professional interpretation of those results, supported by free-text responses, comparison between survey routes, and, where appropriate, expert interviews.

Third, possible further considerations for research, education, professional practice, and resource use.

This distinction is essential to avoid drawing broader conclusions from individual response patterns than the data support. The findings are intended to document and place professional assessment processes in context, not to replace individual decisions or prescribe binding limits of suitability. The methodological implementation and planned analytical approaches are explained in more detail in Chapters 3 and 4.

3. Research Design and Methodology

3.1. Basic Structure of the Study

The study is designed as an international empirical investigation using a mixed-methods approach. It combines standardised surveys with supplementary qualitative data collection and, where available, information on objectively measurable material parameters.

This approach recognises that assessment of a bow blank rests on experience-based professional judgements while also being influenced by observable and, in some cases, measurable material properties. The investigation is therefore intended neither to collect individual experience alone nor to analyse measurable parameters in isolation. Rather, it seeks to relate the two levels to one another in a methodologically transparent way.

The international specialist survey is the principal data-collection instrument. It is intended to provide comparable assessments of material characteristics, degrees of expression, quality segments, and selection decisions. Supplementary expert interviews will enable more detailed interpretation of individual findings, especially where assessments differ strongly, unexpected patterns emerge, or professional explanations are required for interpretation.

Where the relevant information is available and methodologically comparable, physical parameters such as density, modulus of elasticity, speed of sound, weight, or balance point may also be considered. These parameters are not treated as independent proof of suitability. Their role is to make possible relationships with professional assessment decisions visible.

The study therefore proceeds on three connected levels:

1. the standardised recording of professional assessments;
2. the professional explanation and contextualisation of selected findings;
3. cautious examination of possible relationships between experience-based judgements and measurable material properties.

3.2. International Specialist Survey

The survey is designed as a standardised international online study. It is addressed to specialists with professional experience in selecting, working, assessing, restoring, repairing, or trading in stringed-instrument bows made from *Paubrasilia echinata*.

Online implementation permits international participation while also allowing differentiated management of the survey. Shared core questions are presented to all participants. Based on information about professional activity, participants are automatically directed to the relevant survey route.

The data-collection instrument comprises four overarching areas:

- general information on professional experience and activity;
- material-related assessment of individual characteristics;
- route-specific questions concerning new making or existing bows;
- supplementary questions on physical parameters, assessment methods, and professional context.

Participants are not asked to formulate abstract ideals. Instead, they are asked how they assess typical characteristics and decision situations in their actual professional practice.

3.3. Survey Route A: Bow Makers

Survey Route A is addressed to bow makers who select, prepare, work, or use bow blanks for new making.

It focuses on assessment of bow blanks and on judging their possible use for the future bow stick. It records:

- selection and assessment criteria for bow blanks;
- anatomical, structural, and visual material characteristics;
- the significance of the degree and position of a characteristic;
- expected effects on workability, bending, shape stability, and long-term material behaviour;
- assignment to student, orchestral, or master/soloist bows;
- selection methods used, including visual, manual, experience-based, and measurement-based approaches;
- physical parameters and practical target ranges for weight, balance point, and other characteristics of newly made bows;
- possible changes in professional assessment standards over time.

The questions concern the part of the blank intended for the future bow stick. They therefore record not only the presence of a characteristic, but also its expected position within the usable areas of the blank.

The route-specific continuation intended for bow makers, including question sequence, rating matrices, and supplementary free-text fields, is set out in Routing A of the data-collection instrument documented in the appendix.

3.4. Survey Route B: Violin Makers and Dealers

Survey Route B is addressed to violin makers and dealers who assess, purchase, sell, broker, restore, or repair existing bows.

This survey route records how visible and structural characteristics are assessed on finished or existing bow sticks. It does not focus on technical considerations alone. Condition, repair history, restorability, market acceptance, value development, documentation, and legal marketability under conservation law are also considered.

It records, in particular:

- assessment of visible and structural material characteristics in existing bows;
- the professional significance of a characteristic's position, degree, and possible development;
- effects on technical appraisal, market acceptance, and marketability;
- differences between quality and market segments;
- the significance of repairs, restorations, and known damage histories;
- the handling of documentation and supporting evidence, insofar as these are relevant to professional assessment of an existing bow.

Survey Route B supplements the perspective of new making with the assessment of material that has already been worked and of existing bows. Their properties, risks, and acceptance may become apparent only in use or through later examination.

The route-specific continuation intended for violin makers and dealers, including question sequence, rating matrices, and supplementary free-text fields, is set out in Routing B of the data-collection instrument documented in the appendix.

3.5. Standardised Image References

Standardised image references are used to assess visible material characteristics. They are intended to provide as consistent a basis as possible so that different participants can assess comparable degrees of material characteristics.

Depending on the characteristic, these references may include photographs, technical drawings, schematic representations, comparative views, or image sequences. Not every characteristic can be

represented adequately by a single image. Complex or position-dependent characteristics may therefore require a combination of written description and several visual representations.

The image references serve solely to explain. They neither define fixed thresholds nor suggest a particular assessment. Their function is to reduce misunderstanding and support as consistent as possible a use of the key terms.

For characteristics that become apparent principally through working, bending, material stress, long-term observation, or repair experience, static images are regularly insufficient. In such cases, a precise written description provides the primary basis for assessment. Image material may be used in addition where it improves understanding.

3.6. Assessment System and Material Characteristics

The survey records more than twenty typical material characteristics and structural irregularities. These include, among other things, characteristics of grain direction, growth-ring structure, porosity, visible inclusions, knot traces, colour variation, and other features regarded as relevant to assessment in professional practice.

Where professionally appropriate, assessment is differentiated by three degrees of expression:

- slight;
- moderate;
- pronounced.

For position-dependent characteristics, a further distinction is made between the head area, neck area, middle section of the bow stick, winding area, and visible end of the stick.

Participants assess the professional acceptability of each characteristic with reference to the intended quality segments. The response options “Cannot assess” and “Not applicable” are also available. This is intended to prevent lack of experience or unsuitable questions from producing artificially forced ratings.

The scales are not to be understood as a rigid classification. Rather, they provide a structured way to record professional assessments comparably. Subsequent analysis must consider that assessment of an individual characteristic may depend on the relevant context, its possible interaction with other characteristics, and its position.

The individual material characteristics, their explanations, the assessment levels, and the position-specific questions are set out verbatim in the question catalogue of the online survey. The shared basic structure, automatic routing to Routing A or Routing B, and the final shared question block 4 are documented transparently in the appendix.

3.7. Expert Interviews

Supplementary expert interviews are envisaged as a qualitative method. They do not replace the international survey but explain and contextualise its findings.

Interviewees are to be selected deliberately to include different professional perspectives, levels of experience, regional contexts, and fields of work. A prerequisite is demonstrable practical experience in selecting, working, or assessing *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks or bows.

The interviews may serve to:

- explain striking agreements or differences in the survey findings;
- explore in greater depth the significance of individual material characteristics in practical decision-making;
- capture relationships between characteristics, quality segments, and working decisions;
- describe more precisely the differences between selecting a bow blank and assessing an existing bow;

- place open questions concerning material behaviour, possible uses, and professional trade-offs in context.

The interviews will be analysed thematically and kept clearly separate from the survey's quantitative results. Statements by individual interviewees will not be treated as an expression of consensus, but as in-depth professional perspectives.

3.8. Pretest and Quality Assurance

Before international data collection begins, the data-collection instrument, including its shared and route-specific elements, is to be examined in a scientifically supervised pretest.

The pretest will also examine whether specialists from different professional contexts and language areas understand key terms, degrees of expression, and image references in sufficiently comparable ways. It must be determined whether reference material could unintentionally suggest a particular assessment or serves solely to describe the relevant characteristic unambiguously.

The pretest will clarify:

- whether questions, terms, and instructions are understood unambiguously;
- whether the distinction between slight, moderate, and pronounced characteristics is sufficiently clear;
- whether image references and written explanations are correctly matched;
- whether position-dependent questions are clearly distinguished from general assessment questions;
- whether the distinction between Survey Routes A and B remains comprehensible throughout the survey;
- whether response scales and tables can be used consistently;
- whether "Cannot assess" and "Not applicable" are understood as intended;
- whether the terminology used remains professionally consistent in all language versions;
- whether the scope and completion time of the survey are appropriate;
- whether the technical implementation of survey routing functions reliably;
- whether the open comment fields provide sufficient space to explain professional relationships or interactions among several characteristics.

The results of the pretest will inform revision of the data-collection instrument, the image references, and the technical implementation. This applies both to shared question blocks 1, 2, and 4 and to the respective route-specific continuations in Routing A and Routing B. The international study will begin only thereafter. The further sequence of validation and implementation is set out in Chapter 7.

4. Sample, Data Collection, and Analysis

4.1. Target Group and Participation Requirements

The investigation is addressed to specialists with practical experience in selecting, working, or assessing *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks, bow sticks, or existing stringed-instrument bows. This includes bow makers, violin makers, and dealers. Depending on their professional field, restorers or other specialists may also be included where their experience is relevant to the respective questions.

Participation does not require a uniform form of training, a specified number of years in the profession, or membership of a particular institution. What matters is that respondents are or have been demonstrably involved in decisions concerning selection, assessment, working, restoration, repair, or trade.

The study does not claim statistical representativeness in the sense of a random sample of all specialists worldwide. Such a population can neither be defined unequivocally nor accessed in full. Instead, the aim is to obtain a professionally robust and internationally diverse sample that makes different professional perspectives, levels of experience, and regional contexts visible.

4.2. Recruitment of Participants

Invitations to participate are to be distributed through international professional networks, professional associations, training institutions, specialist events, personal professional contacts, and suitable digital communication channels.

Recruitment should take care not to reach only people who are particularly well connected in individual countries, organisations, or professional groups. Wherever possible, the sample should reflect a range of activities, including new making, repair, restoration, trade, brokering, appraisal, and teaching.

Participation is voluntary. The survey should be designed so that specialists with limited time can also take part. At the same time, the questions must remain sufficiently differentiated to permit professionally robust findings. This tension between completion time and depth of knowledge must be considered in further revision of the instrument and in the pretest.

4.3. Recording Professional Background

Information on professional background will be collected to contextualise responses. It does not serve to evaluate individuals but permits differentiated analysis of possible differences between fields of activity and experience profiles.

The following may be recorded in particular:

- principal professional activity and further fields of activity;
- number of years in the profession;
- extent and frequency of work with *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks or existing bows;
- experience of new making, material selection, repair, restoration, appraisal, or trade;
- use of physical measurement methods;
- regional or international orientation of professional activity;
- experience in assessing different quality segments.

The information is to be collected in a way that avoids, as far as possible, inferences about individual persons. This requires a sufficiently broad presentation, particularly for small professional groups or narrowly defined regional subsamples.

4.4. Conduct of Data Collection

The online survey is to remain open for a clearly defined period. Before the international field phase begins, the data-collection instrument, image references, response scales, and technical routing will be reviewed in a pretest.

During the field phase, no substantive changes are to be made to core questions, scales, or image references unless compelling technical or methodological reasons require them. Any necessary changes must be documented and taken into account in subsequent analysis.

The survey is to be available in several language versions. The translations must be aligned in technical terminology so that key terms carry the same meaning in all language versions. This applies in particular to material characteristics, degrees of expression, positions along the bow stick, quality segments, and response categories.

Multiple participation should, as far as technically possible, be prevented or made detectable. An appropriate balance must be maintained between data quality and anonymity.

4.5. Data Protection and Handling of Sensitive Information

The survey is not to request information that could identify individual persons, clients, specific transactions, instruments, bow blanks, or possible legal infringements.

Questions concerning documentation, access to information, or legal marketability under conservation law are formulated in general terms. They concern professional experience, perceived difficulties, clarity of information, and possible practical effects. They do not serve to collect individual cases or evaluate particular decisions.

Personal data are collected only to the extent necessary for implementation, analysis, and, where applicable, voluntary participation in follow-up interviews. Contact details for interviews or follow-up questions are to be stored separately from the survey data.

Analysis and publication of the findings will in principle take place in anonymised and aggregated form. Statements concerning small subgroups will be reported separately only where identification of individual persons can be excluded.

4.6. Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative analysis is differentiated by material characteristic, degree of expression, quality segment, and, where applicable, position within the bow stick. This differentiation does not apply to characteristics for which no position-specific assessment is provided.

The response categories “Cannot assess” and “Not applicable” are reported separately and analysed. They are neither neutral nor negative assessments, and they are not treated as missing values.

Physical information is compared directly only where the object of measurement, unit, and, where available, underlying measurement method are adequately documented. Information based on differing or incompletely described measurement conditions is reported separately or included in the analysis only descriptively.

For individual material characteristics, the analysis will consider in particular:

- frequencies of the respective assessments;
- distribution of acceptability by degree of expression;
- differences between positions along the bow stick;
- differences between student, orchestral, and master/soloist bows;
- assessments within and between the survey routes;
- possible relationships with professional experience, field of activity, or selection methods;
- relationships between professional assessments and voluntarily reported physical parameters.

Depending on the scale level and data quality, medians, interquartile ranges, frequency distributions, suitable measures of dispersion, and, where methodologically justified, means may be reported. Group comparisons serve primarily exploratory analysis. Inferential statistical methods will be used only where sample size, data distribution, and comparability of the groups permit.

Small subgroups will not be overinterpreted. Regional, national, or professional differences will be examined in greater depth only where the number of responses and composition of the subsample permit professionally meaningful contextualisation. Otherwise, they will be treated as indications of possible questions for further research.

A high proportion of “Cannot assess” or “Not applicable” responses may indicate that characteristics, questions, or decision situations are less familiar to certain professional groups or require more precise contextualisation later in the study.

4.7. Qualitative Analysis

The qualitative data comprise free-text responses, supplementary comments, and, where applicable, the findings of structured expert interviews.

Analysis is thematic. Central themes may include, for example:

- professional reasoning for acceptance or rejection of particular characteristics;
- the significance of combinations of several material characteristics;
- differences between an ideal conception and practical use;
- experience with workability, bending, shape stability, and long-term behaviour;
- differences between selecting a bow blank and assessing an existing bow;
- reasons for divergent assessments within or between professional groups;
- changes in professional assessment standards;
- aspects of differentiated and resource-conscious material use.

Qualitative statements explain and contextualise quantitative findings. They do not replace statistical generalisation and must not simply be presented as a majority view. Conversely, they may reveal relationships that standardised response formats alone do not capture sufficiently.

4.8. Integration of the Data

Quantitative and qualitative analysis will be integrated through a multi-stage process.

First, the standardised assessments will be analysed separately by material characteristic, degree of expression, position, and quality segment. Conspicuous patterns will then be examined more closely, for example clear agreement, substantial dispersion, or differences between professional groups.

In a further step, free-text responses and, where appropriate, interview statements will be used to place these patterns in professional context. A clear distinction must be drawn between what follows directly from the data and what is formulated as a professionally grounded interpretation of the findings.

Indications of interaction between several material characteristics will first be analysed thematically based on free-text responses and supplementary explanations. They will not automatically be treated as statistically established relationships. Further interpretation will occur only where corresponding patterns are clear in the standardised responses, free-text data, or supplementary expert interviews.

The study will therefore distinguish three levels:

1. direct empirical findings, such as frequencies, distributions, and differences between groups;
2. professional contextualisation's based on free-text responses, interviews, and the linkage of several findings;
3. further considerations that may arise for education, research, professional practice, and resource use.

This distinction is essential so that the study does not claim greater explanatory power than its data support. It also accords with the basic purpose of the project: to document professional assessment practice systematically without prematurely deriving binding technical, economic, or legal standards from it. The principles for contextualising the findings are developed further in Chapter 5.

5. Discussion and Contextualisation of the Findings

5.1. Function of the Discussion

The discussion serves to place the findings of the international survey in their professional and methodological context. It goes beyond merely presenting frequencies, distributions, and group differences, but may not anticipate conclusions that are not supported by the data collected.

The starting point is the directly observable survey findings. These are then related to the free-text responses, supplementary expert interviews, available materials-science knowledge, and existing specialist literature. The basis on which each statement rests must remain clear throughout.

The discussion therefore distinguishes three levels:

1. empirically supported findings that emerge from the standardised responses;
2. professional interpretations supported by free-text responses, expert interviews, material experience, or external literature;
3. further considerations arising from the findings for professional practice, education, material documentation, and differentiated use of existing resources.

This distinction is particularly important because the study examines complex professional assessment processes. It can document how specialists assess material characteristics. It cannot, however, determine the actual scale of available raw-material stocks or derive conclusions about biological population trends or ecological sustainability from the responses alone.

5.2. Technical Suitability, Practical Usability, and Quality Segment

A central subject of the later discussion will be the distinction between technical suitability, practical usability, and assignment to a particular quality segment.

A bow blank may have technical properties that make its use possible in principle without making it equally suitable for every bow or quality segment. Conversely, an individual visible characteristic may initially appear problematic but, in the specific context, be professionally acceptable if it is slight, located in a less critical position, or compensated for by other material properties.

The discussion should therefore not proceed from a simplified opposition between “good” and “bad” material. What matters is the requirements made of the future bow stick, the characteristics that occur and the context in which they occur, and the professional consequences that follow.

Attention will be given to whether different patterns of acceptability emerge for student, orchestral, and master/soloist bows. Such differences should not be understood as deviations from a general quality standard, but as evidence that professional assessment is always relative to intended use.

5.3. Degree, Position, and Interaction of Material Characteristics

The discussion recognises that the mere presence of a characteristic often does not provide sufficient information about its professional relevance.

For many characteristics, the study will examine whether, and to what extent, assessment depends on degree of expression. A slight characteristic may be judged acceptable, while the same characteristic, when pronounced, may lead to restriction or rejection of a blank. Position within the intended bow stick may likewise be decisive. A characteristic in the head area may be assessed differently from one in the middle section, winding area, or visible end of the stick.

The study will also examine whether certain combinations of characteristics carry greater weight in practice than individual characteristics alone. Analysis can describe only relationships that are sufficiently supported by the data. Where free-text responses or interviews point to more complex interactions, these will be identified as professional explanations rather than presented as statistically established rules.

5.4. Physical Properties and Professional Overall Assessment

A further focus of the later discussion is the relationship between physical material parameters and professional assessment decisions.

Density, modulus of elasticity, speed of sound, weight, and balance point can provide valuable indications of properties of a bow blank or bow stick. Their explanatory value remains limited, however, if they are considered without reference to grain direction, growth structure, workability, capacity for bending, shape stability, and the intended quality segment.

The study is not designed to determine whether individual measurements can replace professional assessment. Rather, it asks what importance specialists attach to these parameters, which measurement methods they use, and how measured values relate to experience-based selection decisions.

Where discernible relationships emerge, they may be interpreted as indications of a link between objectively measurable properties and professional assessment practice. The absence of such relationships, or only weak relationships, would also be a relevant result. It would show that assessment of a bow blank cannot be adequately described by measurements alone.

5.5. Differences between Survey Routes A and B

Survey Routes A and B capture related but different professional decision situations.

Bow makers assess bow blanks prospectively. Their judgement concerns subsequent working, the technical development of the bow stick, and the expected function of the finished bow. Violin makers and dealers, by contrast, predominantly assess already worked bow sticks or existing bows. For them, visible changes, repairs, restorations, documented histories, market acceptance, and legal marketability under conservation law may also be relevant.

The discussion should therefore not interpret differences between the survey routes prematurely as contradictions. They may instead reflect different professional perspectives. A characteristic considered still acceptable in selecting a blank may be assessed differently in an existing bow, for example because it affects long-term stability, repairability, value development, or market acceptance.

5.6. Resource Use and Professional Usability

The findings may indicate how differentiated specialists' handling of existing bow blanks and bows is. A clear distinction must be drawn between professional assessment of an individual blank and broader statements about material availability.

The study does not examine the total volume of material available and does not calculate any universally applicable material yield. It can examine the extent to which practical usability can be inferred from weight, volume, or number of pieces alone. Whether a blank can be used sensibly in professional terms depends on its individual characteristics, intended quality segment, and the specific craft decision.

Depending on the findings, the investigation may support a more differentiated view. It may show that material apparently unsuitable for the highest requirements can, under certain conditions, be usable for other purposes or quality segments. Conversely, a blank of adequate volume may be unsuitable for its intended purpose because of structural or functional characteristics.

Further considerations on resource management, material availability, or possible conversion models must be explicitly identified as interpretation. They must not be confused with direct measurements of stocks or biological sustainability.

Current international working documents identify, in this context, questions of traceability, quality grading, reasons for rejection, and practical material yield.

5.7. Documentation and Legal Marketability

Questions concerning documentation, access to information, and legal marketability under conservation law are addressed exclusively in relation to existing bows and Survey Route B.

They do not concern the technical suitability of a bow blank. Instead, they relate to the practical consequences of evidence, documentation records, and access to information for appraisal, repair, restoration, sale, brokering, travel, and cross-border activity.

The discussion must clearly distinguish three levels:

- the technical and craft appraisal of a bow;
- its economic or market-related assessment;
- its documentary and legal marketability under conservation law.

These levels may influence one another in practice, but they are not identical. A technically sound and professionally usable bow may, for example, be restricted in its marketability by insufficient documentation. Conversely, complete documentation does not replace professional assessment of a bow's condition, stability, or musical quality.

In this area, the study serves exclusively to record professional experience and perceived effects. It makes no statement about the legal status of individual blanks, bows, transactions, or persons.

5.8. Limitations of the Study

The evidential value of the study depends substantially on the composition and size of the sample, the comparability of the terms used, the quality of translations, and the clarity of the image references.

The standardised image references provide a common basis for assessing typical characteristics. They cannot, however, replace physical examination of a particular bow blank. Characteristics such as working behaviour, bending behaviour, internal stress, tonal development, or long-term shape stability can be captured only to a limited extent through images or brief descriptions.

Regional traditions, different training pathways, individual workshop experience, and different market conditions may also influence responses. Differences between groups must therefore initially be understood as empirical observations. Their causes may be contextualised through supplementary qualitative data but cannot always be explained conclusively.

Small subgroups and rarely represented professional profiles will be interpreted cautiously. They may point to relevant differences, but do not automatically permit general statements. The study should therefore be understood as a basis for further research, not as a final definition of assessment standards.

6. Planned Presentation of Findings, Possible Conclusions, and Outlook

6.1. Integration of the Findings

The subsequent integration is intended to present the findings of the individual components of the study as a coherent whole. It should not merely repeat results but relate the different levels of the study: standardised assessments of material characteristics, differences between quality segments and professional groups, information on physical parameters, and supplementary qualitative explanations.

The following questions will be central in particular:

- Which characteristics influence the fundamental usability of a bow blank?
- Which characteristics lead, depending on degree, position, or combination with other properties, to limitations or rejection?
- What differences exist between student, orchestral, and master/soloist bows?
- What significance do physical properties have in relation to visual and experience-based assessment?
- Which selection methods are used in professional practice?
- In which areas are common assessment patterns evident, and where do professional assessments differ?
- What additional considerations arise for existing bows with respect to condition, repair, restoration, market acceptance, documentation, and legal marketability under conservation law?
- What indications arise for professionally differentiated use of existing bow blanks and bows?

The integration must expressly distinguish between findings that follow directly from the data and statements formulated as professional interpretation or further consideration.

6.2. Conclusions

The study's conclusions are intended to describe international professional assessment practice, not to establish binding technical or economic standards.

Where the survey reveals a high degree of agreement, areas of broad professional consensus may be identified. Where assessments diverge substantially, such differences should not be understood as a deficiency of the study. They may instead show that certain material characteristics are assessed in a context-dependent way, that different professional experiences play a role, or that regional, organisational, and historical assessment standards remain influential.

Provided that the scope and quality of the data permit, the study is designed to make statements about:

- typical assessment patterns for anatomical, structural, visual, and physical material characteristics;
- different thresholds of acceptability by degree and position;
- differences between quality segments;
- commonalities and differences between bow makers, violin makers, and dealers;
- the significance of experiential knowledge in relation to measurable material parameters;
- the role of condition, repair, restoration, market acceptance, and marketability in existing bows;
- the limits of considering usability solely in terms of volume, weight, or individual measurements.

In particular, the study will examine the extent to which the professional suitability of a bow blank can be explained by individual measurements or isolated visible characteristics, and the importance

of an overall assessment combining material structure, position and degree of characteristics, physical properties, intended use, and professional experience.

6.3. Recommendations for Professional Practice

Recommendations arising from the study must be clearly identified as such. They must not assume the character of binding prescriptions where their basis consists only of observed assessment tendencies or professional interpretations.

Possible recommendations may concern the following areas.

For Bow Makers

The findings may help make typical selection criteria more transparent, facilitate communication about material properties, and make the assignment of bow blanks to different quality segments more comprehensible.

For Violin Makers and Dealers

The investigation may support appraisal of existing bows by placing visible material characteristics, repair considerations, market acceptance, and long-term use more firmly in a shared professional context.

For Education and Knowledge Transfer

The documented assessment patterns may provide a basis for describing implicit experiential knowledge more clearly and making it useful for teaching, master training, and professional exchange. This does not replace direct experience of materials, but can communicate it in a more structured way.

For Material Documentation

The study may provide suggestions as to which information about bow blanks, bow sticks, and existing bows is particularly relevant in professional terms and how it can be recorded transparently.

For Professional Information and Guidance

The findings from Survey Route B may indicate the situations in which professional groups, musicians, or owners require clearer and more readily accessible information on documentation, supporting evidence, and legal marketability under conservation law.

For Differentiated Use of Existing Resources

The investigation may show that practical usability of a bow blank depends on its individual characteristics and intended use. This may support more careful allocation of different material qualities without deriving general statements about material stocks or general yield factors from individual findings.

6.4. Further Research Needs

The study represents a first systematic step towards scientifically recording professional assessment practice. Its results may raise new questions that can be examined in greater depth in further investigations.

These include:

- materials-science investigations of selected characteristics and their relationship to workability, bending behaviour, shape stability, and long-term behaviour;
- comparative investigations of bow blanks and the bow sticks made from them;
- long-term observation of bows with particular material characteristics;
- in-depth investigation of regional and historical differences in assessment standards;
- research into education, knowledge transfer, and transmission of implicit specialist knowledge;

- methodological development of standardised image references and assessment instruments;
- studies of documentation, access to information, and practical marketability of existing bows.

The present investigation should therefore be understood not as an endpoint, but as a starting point for broader scientific engagement with material assessment, professional expertise, and sustainable resource use in modern stringed-instrument bow making.

6.5. Outlook

The planned study is intended to open a body of knowledge that has hitherto been rooted mainly in workshops, individual experience, and professional networks. It may help document this experiential knowledge without reducing its complexity to simplified indicators or rigid rules.

Its value lies in bringing together several perspectives: the experience of bow makers, the assessment of existing bows by violin makers and dealers, the inclusion of physical material parameters, and the scientifically transparent analysis of this information.

This can create a basis on which future discussions of material assessment, education, documentation, marketability, and sustainable resource use can be conducted with greater professional precision. The research proposal remains open to scientific validation, methodological development, and participation by further specialist partners. It is expressly designed as a collaborative study capable of further development, not as a completed investigation.

7. Work Programme and Planned Project Sequence

The study is designed as a research project to be developed in stages. The present data-collection instrument, image references, and evaluation-oriented research questions provide a sound working basis, but must be scientifically validated, tested in a pretest, and adjusted where necessary before the international survey begins.

7.1. Scientific Validation

In a first step, the research design, data-collection instrument, image references, term definitions, and analytical structure will be reviewed jointly with the scientific cooperation partners.

This validation will also refine the criteria for subsequent analysis. This concerns the conditions under which assessment patterns may be described as broad consensus, tendency, disagreement, or an open question. The final definition will be made after the pretest and before the main analysis begins.

The review will address whether the research questions are clearly operationalised, whether the response scales adequately reflect professional assessment practice, and whether the planned comparisons between professional groups, quality segments, and assessment perspectives can be undertaken in a methodologically robust way.

Attention will be paid to clear distinction:

- – between assessment of bow blanks for new making and assessment of finished or existing bows;
- – between material-related, functional, and market-related considerations; and
- – between these considerations and questions of documentation and legal marketability under conservation law.
-

These areas are connected in practice but must not be conflated in the analysis.

7.2. Pretest of the Data-Collection Instrument

Following scientific review, a pretest will be conducted with a limited number of professionally experienced participants from different professional groups.

The pretest will examine the comprehensibility of the questions, the unambiguity of terms, the operation of the online routing, and the practical time required for completion. It will also examine whether the standardised image references explain the intended characteristics sufficiently clearly and whether degrees of expression, position information, and quality segments are understood consistently. In addition, it will show whether the available free-text fields and response options are sufficient to capture professional particularities, uncertainties, or context-dependent assessments without impairing the standardised comparability of the survey.

The results of the pretest will be documented. Changes to the structure of the data-collection instrument, terminology, image references, or response formats should be made only on this basis and supported by transparent reasoning.

7.3. Preparation of the International Survey

Before the main survey begins, the final language versions will be prepared and aligned in technical terminology. It must be ensured that key terms carry, as far as possible, the same meaning in all language versions.

This applies to:

- bow blank and bow stick;
- material characteristics and structural irregularities;

- degrees of expression;
- position information;
- quality segments;
- acceptability and assessment scales;
- “Cannot assess” and “Not applicable”;
- terms relating to documentation, marketability, and Pre-Convention evidence.

In parallel, the technical requirements for the online survey will be reviewed. These include automatic routing to Routing A or Routing B, display of image references, data security, prevention of multiple participation, and separate storage of any contact details for interviews.

7.4. International Field Phase

The international survey will take place after the pretest and technical finalisation have been completed. It is addressed to specialists in bow making, violin making, trade, restoration, and related fields of activity, insofar as their professional experience is relevant to the respective question.

Participants will be approached through professional networks, professional associations, training institutions, personal contacts, and international communication channels. The aim is not a statistically representative random sample, but internationally diverse participation that is professionally robust.

No fundamental changes will be made to core questions or image references during the field phase. Where technical adjustments are required, they will be documented and taken into account in subsequent analysis.

7.5. Data Preparation and Initial Analysis

After the field phase, the data will be structured, cleaned, and prepared for analysis.

First, a descriptive analysis of responses will be conducted. This includes, among other things, frequencies, distributions, differences between quality segments, assessments by degree of expression, and, where provided for, by position of the characteristic within the intended or existing bow stick.

The analysis follows a multidimensional logic:

material characteristic × degree of expression × quality segment × assessment context

For position-dependent questions, the location of the characteristic is included as an additional dimension. Responses such as “Cannot assess” and “Not applicable” are reported separately and are not treated as neutral, negative, or missing responses.

7.6. In-Depth Expert Interviews

On the basis of the initial analysis, topics requiring more detailed professional contextualisation will be identified. This may be the case in particular where clear agreement, substantial dispersion, or response patterns that are difficult to explain methodologically become evident.

The interviews do not serve to correct survey findings retrospectively. They are intended to help understand their professional context more fully. Interview statements will therefore be presented clearly separately from quantitative results.

7.7. Overall Analysis and Scientific Contextualisation

In the overall analysis, quantitative and qualitative findings will be related to one another. The analysis will examine:

- for which material characteristics broad consensus can be identified;
- where majority tendencies exist without clear consensus;
- for which questions clear disagreement or strongly polarised assessments arise;
- what differences exist between Survey Routes A and B; and

- which questions remain open because of limited data, low case numbers, or high proportions of “Cannot assess” responses.

The criteria for consensus, tendency, disagreement, and open questions will be defined before the main analysis and documented in the analytical framework. Differences between professional groups, regions, or experience profiles will be interpreted in greater depth only where the size and composition of the relevant subsamples permit professionally robust contextualisation.

7.8. Preparation of the Findings

The findings will be prepared in a scientifically transparent form. This includes written presentation of the results, tables, figures, methodological explanations, and, where appropriate, supplementary appendices.

Presentation must ensure that direct findings, professional interpretations, and further recommendations remain clearly separate. The study is intended to document the assessment patterns that become evident within the international professional community. It is not intended to derive binding technical thresholds or universally valid quality standards from them.

7.9. Provisional Timetable

The timetable describes the planned sequence of work. It assumes that scientific cooperation, technical implementation of the online survey, and translations can be prepared within an agreed project period.

The following information is intended as a provisional frame of reference. It may change in particular as a result of scientific validation of the data-collection instrument, the scope of the pretest, the number of available language versions, international participation, and the need for in-depth expert interviews.

Indicative period	Work step
approximately 2 weeks	Scientific validation of the study design, research questions, data-collection instrument, image references, and proposed analytical framework
approximately 2 weeks	Completion and professional alignment of the language versions, together with the required information on consent and data protection
approximately 2 weeks	Technical implementation of the online survey, including Routing A and Routing B, and testing of automatic continuation to shared question block 4
approximately 2 weeks	Pretest with a limited, internationally composed group of specialists
approximately 2 weeks	Evaluation of the pretest and methodological, linguistic, and technical revision of the data-collection instrument
approximately 4 weeks	International implementation of the online survey
approximately 6 weeks	Data preparation, plausibility checks, and initial descriptive analysis
approximately 8 weeks	Supplementary expert interviews to contextualise selected findings
approximately 6 weeks	Integration and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data
approximately 10 weeks	Preparation of the findings, discussion, conclusions, and production of tables, figures, and appendices
approximately 8 weeks	Scientific review, revision, final editing, and preparation for publication

Estimated total duration: approximately 52 weeks.

Planning range: approximately 40 to 60 weeks, or around 9 to 14 months.

8. Notes on the Appendix

The appendix documents the data-collection instrument for the planned online survey as a continuous question catalogue. It first contains question blocks 1 and 2, which are intended for all participants. Based on the information in the profile section, participants are then automatically directed to Routing A for bow makers or Routing B for violin makers and dealers. After completing the relevant routing, all participants proceed to shared question block 4.

The presentation in the appendix is intended to make the structure, question sequence, response formats, assessment logic, and technical survey routing transparent. Routing A and Routing B are not separate questionnaires, but two route-specific continuations within the same data-collection instrument.

Routing A contains the route-specific continuation for bow makers and documents their selection, assessment, and intended use of bow blanks in new making.

Routing B contains the route-specific continuation for violin makers and dealers. It concerns assessment of existing bows, including technical appraisal, condition, repair and restoration considerations, market acceptance, documentation, and legal marketability under conservation law.

The following appendices are additionally envisaged for further development of the study:

Appendix C – Catalogue of Evaluation-Oriented Research Questions

Systematic allocation of research questions, guiding assumptions, data-collection fields, and planned analytical steps.

Appendix D – Image References for Material Characteristics

Standardised technical representations and explanatory image references for the anatomical, structural, and visual material characteristics addressed in the survey.

Appendix E – Interview Guides

Semi-structured guides for supplementary expert interviews, organised by professional perspective and thematic focus.

Appendix F – Analysis Framework

Documentation of the planned quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, including the handling of different scale types, small subsamples, free-text responses, “Cannot assess” or “Not applicable” information, and the criteria for consensus, tendency, disagreement, and open questions to be defined before the main analysis.

Appendix G – Supplementary Tables on Physical Properties

Compilation of data collected within the study and supplementary information on density, modulus of elasticity, speed of sound, weight, balance point, and other relevant parameters.

Appendix H – Glossary

Definitions of bow blanks, bow sticks, material characteristics, quality segments, positions, and assessment terms.

Appendix I – Technical Terminology List

Multilingual compilation of the technical terms used to ensure consistent terminology across the study’s different language versions.

Survey on the Professional Assessment and Use of *Paubrasilia echinata* Bow Blanks

Routing A: Bow Makers, Material Selection, and New Bow Making

Routing A: Bow Maker

Draft Notice

This document is a preliminary draft of a future online survey.

It presents the intended content, structure, terminology, assessment logic, and scientific scope of the questionnaire for professional review. The final online version will include the definitive formatting, font sizes, typefaces, graphic design, navigation, interactive response options, image presentation, and technical routing.

The present draft does not represent the final visual appearance or technical implementation of the survey. Its purpose is to provide a clear basis for reviewing the questions, definitions, assessment criteria, and overall structure before the questionnaire is transferred to an online format.

The final design and functionality will also depend on the technical tools, question formats, routing options, graphic elements, and form templates offered by the selected survey service provider.

The final survey is intended to be made available in Brazilian Portuguese, English, French, and German.

The images used in this version are preliminary. They may be replaced in the course of further revision if more informative image material becomes available. However, care should be taken to ensure that lighting, resolution, and the visual representation of the respective characteristic remain as consistent as possible across all image plates. The images included in the present version have been compressed to make it easier to divide the draft within this working framework.

Online implementation and routing note. *The online questionnaire will use conditional display logic. Respondents will see only the questions, quality categories, instrument groups, and specialist modules relevant to the professional profile and activities selected in Section 2 and the route-specific profile section. The present draft intentionally retains the full question set to show the complete scientific scope and all potential response paths.*

Section 1 - Introduction and Scope

This survey forms part of an international research project on the professional assessment and use of Pre-Convention *Paubrasilia echinata* in bow making, bow valuation, trade, restoration, and long-term professional use. The species is also known as pernambuco wood, Pau Brasil, or Fernambukholz.

For more than 250 years, *Paubrasilia echinata* has been regarded as the preferred material for high-quality stringed-instrument bows. Its general suitability for bow making is not under examination here. The purpose of this questionnaire is to investigate how the material is assessed in professional practice, both before the construction of a new bow and when finished or existing bows are evaluated.

The survey covers two complementary professional perspectives:

- the selection, assessment, and use of bow blanks and other starting material for new bow making
- the assessment, valuation, restoration, repair, trade, and long-term professional use of finished and existing bows

The routing for these two professional perspectives is introduced in Section 3. Respondents working in new bow making complete Routing A. Respondents working with finished or existing bows complete Routing B. Those active in both fields are invited to complete both routings.

The survey addresses the following main areas:

- material characteristics and structural irregularities
- differences in acceptability between student-level, orchestral-level, and master-level / soloist bows
- the influence of severity and, where applicable, the position of a characteristic on the stick
- physical properties and professional selection methods
- differences between violin, viola, cello, and double bass bows
- the relationship between material assessment, practical use, valuation, saleability, and market acceptance
- the relevance of Pre-Convention documentation

The three quality categories are used as analytical groups to support comparison of the responses. They do not represent rigid market classifications, and some overlap between them is expected. Respondents should apply the categories according to their own professional understanding and experience. In the online version, only the quality categories selected as part of the respondent's professional work will normally be displayed in the detailed assessment tables.

Material characteristics and structural irregularities are described at three predefined severity levels:

- Slight
- Moderate
- Pronounced

Where possible, these levels are illustrated with reference photographs, schematic examples, technical drawings, or other explanatory material. The examples provide a shared frame of reference. They are not strict technical definitions and do not determine whether a characteristic should be accepted or rejected.

For each severity level, respondents are asked to assess practical acceptability in relation to:

- the quality category of the bow
- where applicable, the position on the stick
- the relevant professional context

Depending on the routing, the professional context may include material selection, new bow making, bending, adjustment, trade, valuation, restoration, repair, customer advice, or long-term observation.

Some characteristics can be assessed directly from the appearance of the material or the finished bow. Others can only be evaluated reliably through measurement, practical experience, working behaviour, repair history, previous intervention, or long-term observation. Where a reliable assessment is not possible, respondents should select "Cannot assess" or "Not applicable" rather than estimate.

The survey refers exclusively to *Paubrasilia echinata*. Other wood species commonly used for student-level or lower-priced bows are outside the scope of this research.

Pre-Convention material and documentation are considered separately from the physical, structural, and functional properties of the material or bow. The survey does not distinguish between wood originating from plantations and wood originating from wild populations.

Participation is voluntary. Survey responses will be evaluated anonymously. Optional contact details, where provided, will be stored separately from the anonymous survey data and will not form part of the statistical evaluation.

Please answer the questions carefully and on the basis of your own professional experience. There are no predetermined "correct" answers. Differences in professional judgement are an important part of the research and will help identify both areas of broad consensus and areas in which assessment practices vary.

By participating, you contribute to a more differentiated understanding of how Pre-Convention *Paubrasilia echinata* is selected, used, assessed, valued, restored, traded, and preserved in professional bow-making practice.

Thank you for your time, expertise, and willingness to participate.

1.1 Consent to Participate (required)

Do you consent to participate in this anonymous survey? (required)

Select one option.

- ☐ Yes, I consent to participate
☐ No, I do not consent to participate

Section 1A – Reference Material for Material Characteristics and Structural Irregularities

The assessment items in Sections 3A.2 and 3B.2 are accompanied by reference material illustrating slight, moderate, and pronounced manifestations of the relevant characteristics.

Standardised photographs are used wherever they provide a clear representation. Where a single photograph is insufficient, schematic illustrations, technical drawings, comparative views, image sequences, or detail images may be used instead or added for clarification.

The reference material serves as practical guidance only. It does not establish fixed technical limits or predetermine the respondent's assessment.

For characteristics that are primarily recognised through material behaviour, repair experience, tension, bending, or long-term observation, the written description should be treated as the main reference.

The examples are placed directly before the corresponding assessment item.

Planned online presentation. Definitions, the rating scale, and the meanings of CA and N/A will remain available through a persistent help panel or expandable information field. They will not need to be repeated in full before every individual item.

Section 2 – Professional Profile and Routing

2.1 Which professional perspective best describes your work? (required)

Select one option.

- ☐ Bow maker / material selection and new bow making
- ☐ Violin maker, dealer, or other specialist / trade, valuation, restoration, repair, and existing bows
- ☒ Both activities

2.2 Country of Professional Activity (required)

Click or tap here to enter text.

2.3 Years of Professional Experience (required)

Select one option.

- ☐ less than 5 years
- ☐ 5–10 years
- ☐ 11–20 years
- ☐ 21–30 years
- ☐ more than 30 years

2.4 Main Professional Focus (required)

Which areas form part of your main professional work?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Violin bows
- ☐ Viola bows
- ☐ Cello bows
- ☐ Double bass bows
- ☐ Student-level bows
- ☐ Orchestral-level bows
- ☐ Master-level / soloist bows
- ☐ Restoration
- ☐ Repair
- ☐ Trade and valuation
- ☐ Other _____

Routing after Section 2

Respondents working in material selection or new bow making should complete Section 3A and then continue to Section 4.
Respondents working with existing bows in violin making, trade, valuation, restoration, repair, customer advice, or expert assessment should complete Section 3B and then continue to Section 4.

Respondents who selected “Both activities” should complete both Section 3A and Section 3B before continuing to Section 4.
Respondents should complete only the routing or routings assigned to their professional perspective.

Planned online routing after Section 2. The selections made in Section 2 will control the later display of quality-category columns, instrument-specific questions, and optional specialist modules. Shared questions will be asked only once where a respondent completes both routings. The full alternatives remain visible in this draft so that the intended analytical scope can be reviewed.

Section 3A – Bow Makers / Material Selection and New Bow Making

This section is intended for respondents whose professional work involves the selection, assessment, preparation, and use of *Paubrasilia echinata* for the making of new bows.

3A.1 Professional Context

3A.1.1 Professional Activities (required)

Online routing note. The selected activities will determine which later modules are displayed. Detailed questions on physical measurements and reported ranges will be shown only to respondents who select measurement of physical properties or experimental or research-related material assessment. Core questions on professional selection practice remain available to all Routing A respondents.

Which of the following activities form part of your professional work with *Paubrasilia echinata*?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Selection and purchase of bow blanks
- ☐ Visual assessment of raw material
- ☐ Measurement of physical properties
- ☐ Preparation and initial working of bow blanks
- ☐ Making of violin, viola, and cello bows
- ☐ Making of double bass bows
- ☐ Experimental or research-related material assessment
- ☐ Other _____

3A.1.2 Frequency of Professional Work with *Paubrasilia echinata* (required)

Quality-category and instrument routing. The online version will display detailed assessment columns only for the quality categories selected in Section 2.4. Instrument-specific sections will be displayed only for the bow types selected there. Respondents may choose to add another category or bow type later if it becomes relevant.

How often do you select, assess, prepare, or work *Paubrasilia echinata* for the making of new bows?

Select one option.

- ☐ Daily or almost daily
- ☐ Several times per week
- ☐ Several times per month
- ☐ Several times per year
- ☐ Rarely

3A.2 Critical Threshold Assessment of Material Characteristics in Bow Blanks

Each material characteristic is described at three predefined severity levels: slight, moderate, and pronounced.

For every severity level, please assess the practical suitability of the bow blank for the intended quality category and, where applicable, the anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick.

The severity level is defined by the accompanying description and reference material. The 1–5 rating refers only to the professional assessment of suitability for new bow making, not to the severity of the characteristic itself.

The purpose of this section is to document professional assessment practices for bow blanks intended for new bow making. Ratings should reflect practical suitability for material selection, preparation, working, bending, and the making of bows for different quality categories. They are not intended to establish universally binding rejection criteria.

Anticipated Stick Sections Used Where Position-Dependent Assessment Applies

Stick section	Definition
Head area	The area intended to form the head and the immediately adjacent upper part of the finished bow stick
Upper section of the stick	The area intended to form approximately the first 20 cm of the finished bow stick after the head
Middle section of the stick	The area intended to form the visible middle section of the finished bow stick
Winding / lapping area	The area intended to be covered by the winding or lapping in the finished bow
Visible end of the stick	The area intended to form the last visible centimetres of the finished bow stick near the frog

The reference material appears directly before the corresponding assessment item and is intended to help distinguish slight, moderate, and pronounced manifestations of each characteristic in the bow blank or in the area intended to form the finished bow stick.

Rating Scale for All Assessment Tables

Rating	Meaning
1	Fully suitable / would use without reservation
2	Suitable with minor reservations
3	Suitable with limitations
4	Normally unsuitable / would use only in exceptional cases
5	Unsuitable for new bow making

In each assessment cell:

S = Slight

M = Moderate

P = Pronounced

CA = Cannot assess

N/A = Not applicable

Please select one suitability rating from 1 to 5 for each severity level.

Use “Cannot assess” where a reliable professional judgement is not possible. Use “Not applicable” where the characteristic or anticipated position is not relevant to the bow blank being assessed.

Structural Note

For easier orientation, the material characteristics are arranged in five thematic groups:

- Grain Direction and Growth-Ring Structure
- Colour, Deposits, Porosity, and Visual Structure
- Inclusions and Knot-Related Characteristics
- Cracks and Visible Localised Damage
- Homogeneity, Bending Effects, and Material Behaviour

These headings are used only to organise the survey. They do not alter the assessment method, rating scale, or comparability of the individual characteristics.

Core assessment module. The material-characteristic assessments remain the principal common module and will not be shortened by removing severity levels or position-dependent distinctions. Online routing will reduce burden primarily by suppressing quality-category columns that fall outside the respondent's professional work and by keeping instructions available in a compact help panel.

Grain Direction and Growth-Ring Structure

3A.2.1 Twisted Grain in the Bow Blank

Twisted grain refers to a helical rotation of the grain around the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. It should be distinguished from diagonal grain direction, in which the grain runs at an angle but does not rotate helically around the longitudinal axis.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The grain shows a slight helical deviation around the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The twisted grain is localised or visible only upon close inspection and does not clearly characterise the overall grain pattern of the affected section.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The grain shows a clearly visible helical course around the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The twisted grain extends over a larger section and noticeably influences the visible grain pattern, while remaining limited in extent.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The grain follows a strongly developed helical course around the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The twisted grain extends over a substantial section and clearly characterises the visible grain pattern of the affected area.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

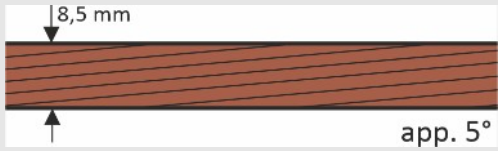
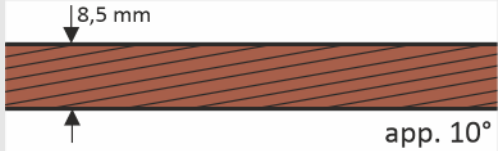
For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.2 Diagonal Grain Direction in the Bow Blank

Diagonal grain direction refers to a straight or predominantly straight deviation of the visible grain from the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. Unlike twisted grain, the grain does not rotate helically around the longitudinal axis.

The severity level should be assessed based on both the angle of deviation and the length of the affected section. Where these two criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The visible grain deviates by up to approximately 5° from the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick and/or runs diagonally over only a short section. The deviation is subtle and may be visible only upon close inspection.  The schematic illustration shows an 8.5 mm-thick section corresponding to the finished bow stick, with a grain angle of approximately 5°.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The visible grain deviates by more than approximately 5° but less than 10° from the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick and/or runs diagonally over a clearly visible, larger section. The deviation noticeably influences the grain pattern but does not dominate the appearance of the affected section.  The schematic illustration shows an 8.5 mm-thick section corresponding to the finished bow stick, with a grain angle of approximately 7–8°.
Pronounced	The visible grain deviates by 10° or more from the longitudinal axis of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick and/or runs diagonally over a substantial section. The diagonal orientation clearly characterises the visible grain pattern of the affected area.  The schematic illustration shows an 8.5 mm-thick section corresponding to the finished bow stick, with a grain angle of approximately 10°.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.3 Wavy Grain in the Bow Blank

Wavy grain refers to repeated or localised changes in grain direction that form visible waves along the length of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. Unlike twisted grain, the grain does not rotate helically around the longitudinal axis. Unlike diagonal grain direction, it does not maintain a predominantly straight and uniformly inclined course.

The severity level should be assessed based on the amplitude, frequency, and extent of the visible waves. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The grain shows a slight, localised change in direction forming one or only a few shallow waves in the bow blank or in the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The deviation affects only a short section and may be visible only upon close inspection.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The grain shows clearly visible waves with a greater change in direction and/or several repeated waves in the bow blank or in the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The characteristic extends over a larger but still limited section and noticeably influences the visible grain pattern.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The grain shows strongly developed, repeated, or closely spaced waves with marked changes in direction in the bow blank or in the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The characteristic extends over a substantial section and clearly defines the visible grain pattern of the affected area.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.4 Irregular Growth-Ring Structure in the Bow Blank

Irregular growth-ring structure refers to visible variations in the spacing, width, curvature, or direction of the growth rings within the bow blank or within the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The characteristic may occur locally or extend over a larger section of the material.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree of variation, the number of affected growth rings, and the extent of the irregularity along the bow blank or the area intended to form the finished bow stick. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

For this characteristic, the written description should be treated as the primary reference, as standardised visual examples may not reliably represent the full range of growth-ring irregularities.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The growth rings show minor, localised variations in spacing, width, curvature, and/or direction within the bow blank or the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The irregularity affects only a small area and may be visible only upon close inspection.
Moderate	The growth rings show clearly visible and repeated variations in spacing, width, curvature, and/or direction within the bow blank or the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The irregularity affects a larger but still limited section and noticeably influences the visible structure of the material.
Pronounced	The growth-ring structure is strongly uneven and shows marked or repeated variations in spacing, width, curvature, and/or direction within the bow blank or the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The irregularity extends over a substantial section and clearly characterises the visible structure of the affected material.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.5 Growth-Ring Orientation in the Future Bow Head

Growth-ring orientation in the future bow head is assessed based on the visible growth-ring direction in the bow blank at the area intended to form the front face of the head. For the purposes of this survey, a horizontal growth-ring orientation at the area intended to form the front face of the bow head is defined as 0° and serves as the reference position.

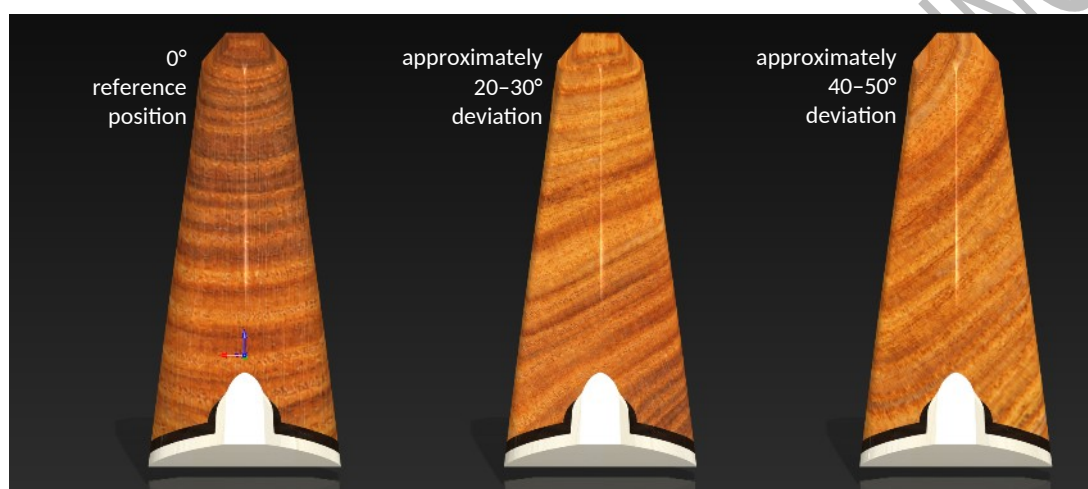
This 0° reference corresponds to a radial or quarter-sawn growth-ring orientation in the area intended to form the bow head, commonly referred to in German bow-making terminology as “Spiegelschnitt”.

Please indicate the maximum deviation from this reference position that you would still consider suitable when selecting a bow blank for each quality category. The question concerns professional suitability in the selection of bow blanks and is not intended to establish a universally binding technical limit.

0° = horizontal growth-ring orientation at the area intended to form the front face of the bow head

90° = growth-ring orientation perpendicular to the 0° reference position

Select one option per quality category.



Quality category	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	Cannot assess
Student-level bows	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Orchestral-level bows	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Master-level / soloist bows	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Comments on Growth-Ring Orientation in the Future Bow Head

Please use this field to explain any qualifications, differences between instrument groups, or other criteria influencing the acceptable angular limits you have indicated.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3A.2.6 Pith or Proximity to the Pith in the Bow Blank or Intended Bow Stick

Pith or proximity to the pith refers to material originating from or close to the central region of the tree stem. In a bow blank, this may be indicated by strongly curved growth rings, an eccentric growth-ring pattern, or the visible presence of pith-related tissue.

The area intended to form the front face of the bow head serves as the primary visual reference because it provides the clearest cross-sectional indication of growth-ring curvature and the material's estimated proximity to the centre of the tree stem.

The professional assessment, however, applies to the bow blank and the intended bow stick rather than only to the visible cross-section of the future head.

The severity level should be assessed based on the curvature and arrangement of the growth rings, the estimated proximity to the centre of the tree stem, the possible presence of pith-related tissue, and the proportion of the visible cross-section affected. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description	
Slight	 This example shows the area intended to form the front face of the bow head.	The growth rings appear largely straight or only slightly curved in the visible cross-section. The pattern suggests that the material originates from a position relatively distant from the centre of the tree stem.
Moderate	 This example shows the area intended to form the front face of the bow head.	The growth rings show clearly visible curvature in the visible cross-section. The pattern suggests that the material originates from a position closer to the centre of the tree stem, without visibly including the pith itself.
Pronounced	 This example shows the area intended to form the front face of the bow head.	The growth rings appear strongly curved, concentric, or almost arc-shaped in the visible cross-section. The pattern suggests that the material originates from very close to the centre of the tree stem or that the visible cross-section includes pith-related tissue.

For each quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow blank and intended bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

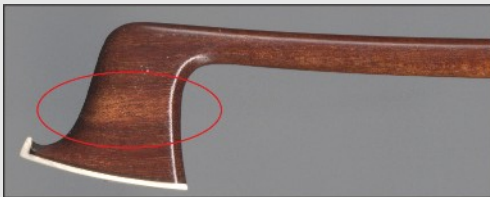
Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow blank / intended bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

Colour, Deposits, Porosity, and Visual Structure

3A.2.7 Colour Variation in the Bow Blank

Colour variation refers to visible differences in tone, intensity, or distribution of colour within the bow blank or within the area intended to form the finished bow stick. These differences may occur as local transitions, contrasting areas, or repeated variations along the material.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree of contrast, the size and number of affected areas, and the extent to which the colour variation influences the overall appearance of the bow blank or intended bow stick. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows minor, localised colour differences or subtle transitions between lighter and darker areas. The variation affects only a small area and may be visible only upon close inspection.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the head area of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows clearly visible colour differences or contrasting transitions affecting a larger but still limited section. The variation noticeably influences the appearance of the affected area without dominating the overall appearance of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows strong, extensive, or repeatedly occurring colour differences with marked contrast. The variation extends over a substantial section and clearly characterises the overall appearance of the affected material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.8 Dark Streaks or Mineral Deposits in the Bow Blank

Dark streaks or mineral deposits refer to visible dark linear markings, localised deposits, or contrasting inclusions within the wood that differ clearly from the surrounding colour and structure of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The severity level should be assessed based on the width, intensity, number, and extent of the dark streaks or deposits, as well as the degree to which they influence the visible appearance of the bow blank or intended bow stick. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows one or only a few narrow, faint dark streaks or small, localised mineral deposits. The characteristic affects only a limited area and may be visible only upon close inspection.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows clearly visible dark streaks or mineral deposits affecting a larger but still limited section or occurring at several points. The characteristic noticeably influences the appearance of the affected area without dominating the overall appearance of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows broad, strongly contrasting, or repeatedly occurring dark streaks or pronounced mineral deposits. The characteristic extends over a substantial section and clearly defines the visible appearance of the affected material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

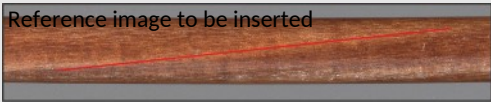
For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.9 Fungal Discolouration in the Bow Blank

Fungal discolouration refers to localised or extensive changes in colour that may be associated with fungal activity or biological alteration of the wood. It should be distinguished from naturally occurring colour variation and from dark streaks or mineral deposits.

The severity level should be assessed based on the intensity, size, number, distribution, and extent of the discoloured areas, as well as any visible indication that the characteristic is associated with altered material structure. The anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where the descriptive criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows one or only a few small, faint, and localised areas of discolouration. The characteristic affects only a limited area and may be visible only upon close inspection. Reference image to be inserted  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows clearly visible discolouration affecting a larger but still limited area or occurring at several points. The characteristic noticeably influences the appearance of the affected section without dominating the overall appearance of the material. Reference image to be inserted  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows strong, extensive, repeated, or high-contrast discolouration affecting a substantial section. The characteristic clearly defines the visible appearance of the affected material and may be associated with altered material structure. Reference image to be inserted  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

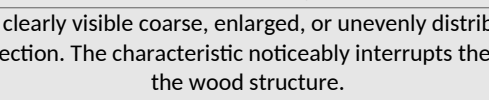
For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.10 Coarse or Uneven Porosity in the Bow Blank

Coarse or uneven porosity refers to visibly enlarged, irregularly distributed, or markedly open pores in the wood structure of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick. The characteristic may occur locally or extend over a larger section of the material.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, depth, number, distribution, and extent of the visible pores, as well as the degree to which they affect the uniformity and appearance of the wood structure. The anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where the descriptive criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows slightly enlarged or unevenly distributed pores affecting only a small, localised area. The characteristic may be visible only upon close inspection and does not clearly disturb the overall uniformity of the wood structure.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows clearly visible coarse, enlarged, or unevenly distributed pores affecting a larger but still limited section. The characteristic noticeably interrupts the uniform appearance of the wood structure.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows strongly developed, open, or markedly uneven porosity extending over a substantial section. The characteristic clearly defines the visible wood structure and gives the affected material a distinctly coarse or non-uniform appearance.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.11 Visual Irregularities without Apparent Structural Effect in the Bow Blank

Visual irregularities without apparent structural effect refer to visible variations in colour, surface appearance, grain pattern, or texture that do not show any recognisable influence on the strength, stability, or functional behaviour of the bow blank or of the area intended to form the finished bow stick.

This category should be used only for visual irregularities that are not already covered by the preceding material characteristics.

The severity level should be assessed based on the visibility, contrast, size, number, and extent of the irregularities, as well as the degree to which they influence the overall appearance of the bow blank or intended bow stick. The anticipated position should be considered separately in the assessment table.

For this characteristic, the written description should be treated as the primary reference, as standardised visual examples may not adequately represent the broad range of possible visual irregularities.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows one or only a few minor visual irregularities that may be noticeable only upon close inspection. They affect only a small, localised area and show no apparent influence on the structural or functional behaviour of the material.
Moderate	The bow blank shows clearly visible irregularities affecting a larger but still limited area or occurring at several points. They noticeably influence the appearance of the affected section but show no apparent structural or functional effect.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows strong, immediately noticeable, extensive, or repeatedly occurring visual irregularities. They clearly define the appearance of a substantial section of the affected material but show no apparent structural or functional effect.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

Inclusions and Knot-Related Characteristics

3A.2.12 Inclusions in the Bow Blank

Inclusions refer to localised embedded features or structurally distinct areas within the wood that cannot be clearly identified as knots or knot traces. They may differ from the surrounding material in colour, texture, density, or grain structure.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, number, depth, visibility, and extent of the inclusions, as well as the degree to which they alter the surrounding grain structure. The anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows one or only a few small, localised inclusions that are visible only upon close inspection. The surrounding grain is only slightly disturbed, and the characteristic affects only a small area.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows one clearly visible inclusion, a larger localised inclusion, or several smaller inclusions. The surrounding grain is visibly deflected, but the characteristic remains confined to a limited section of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows a large, prominent, deep, or repeatedly occurring inclusion. The surrounding grain is strongly deflected, and the characteristic clearly affects the grain direction, appearance, and structural uniformity of a substantial area of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.13 Knot Traces in the Bow Blank

Knot traces refer to visible remnants or indications of former branch growth that alter the local colour, grain direction, or structure of the wood without forming a clearly developed knot in the bow blank or in the area intended to form the finished bow stick. They should be distinguished from non-specific inclusions and from clearly identifiable knots.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, visibility, depth, and extent of the knot trace, as well as the degree to which it alters the surrounding grain direction or structure. The anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows a small, localised knot trace that may be visible only upon close inspection. It causes only a minor change in colour, grain direction, or surface structure and affects only a small area.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows a clearly visible knot trace with a noticeable local change in colour, grain direction, or structure. The characteristic affects a larger but still limited area and visibly disturbs the otherwise uniform grain pattern.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows a prominent, extensive, or deeply embedded knot trace. The surrounding grain is clearly deflected or structurally altered, and the characteristic significantly affects the appearance and local uniformity of the affected material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

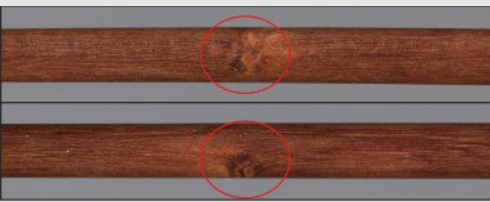
For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.14 Knots in the Bow Blank

Knots refer to clearly identifiable remnants of branch growth embedded in the wood of the bow blank or in the area intended to form the finished bow stick. They are characterised by a distinct knot structure and a local deflection of the surrounding grain. They should be distinguished from knot traces, which indicate former branch growth without forming a clearly developed knot.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, depth, number, and structural prominence of the knots, as well as the degree to which they deflect the surrounding grain or affect the cross-section of the bow blank or intended bow stick. The anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows a small, firmly embedded knot affecting only a limited area. The surrounding grain is only slightly deflected, and only a small proportion of the local cross-section appears to be involved.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows a clearly visible knot of greater size or depth. The surrounding grain is noticeably deflected, and the knot locally interrupts the uniform structure of the material while remaining confined to a limited area.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows a large, deep, or structurally prominent knot. The surrounding grain is strongly deflected, and the knot affects a substantial part of the local cross-section or clearly disrupts the structural uniformity of the affected material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

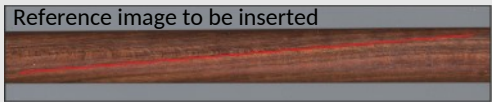
Cracks and Visible Localised Damage

3A.2.15 Hairline Cracks in the Bow Blank

Hairline cracks refer to very fine, narrow, and usually superficial separations in the wood that are visible only upon close inspection. They should be distinguished from wider, deeper, or more clearly open small cracks.

Note: Hairline cracks may occur in bow blanks of different origins and qualities. Their presence alone does not permit a reliable conclusion regarding the overall quality, strength, or suitability of the material for bow making. Assessment should therefore take account of their anticipated position, extent, depth, number, and any indication of progression.

The severity level should be assessed based on the length, number, depth, distribution, and anticipated position of the hairline cracks, as well as any indication that they are progressing or developing into wider cracks. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows one or only a few very fine, short, and superficial hairline cracks. They affect only a small, localised area and may be visible only upon close inspection. Reference image to be inserted  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows longer, more numerous, or more readily visible hairline cracks that remain narrow and confined to a limited area. Some may extend slightly deeper into the surface, but they do not form clearly open cracks. Reference image to be inserted  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows numerous, extended, or repeatedly occurring hairline cracks affecting a larger area. The cracks remain predominantly fine but clearly influence the visible surface condition and may indicate a tendency towards further cracking. Reference image to be inserted  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.16 Small Cracks in the Bow Blank

Small cracks refer to clearly identifiable local separations in the wood that are wider, deeper, or more distinct than hairline cracks but remain limited in length and extent. They should be distinguished from very fine superficial hairline cracks and from major structural fractures.

The severity level should be assessed based on the length, width, depth, number, and anticipated position of the cracks, as well as the proportion of the local cross-section affected. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

The possible reparability or stabilisation of a crack should not determine its severity level. Respondents may explain in the comments whether and how professional intervention would alter their assessment of the bow blank's suitability for new bow making.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows a single short, narrow, and shallow crack affecting only a small, localised area. The crack may be visible only upon close inspection and does not clearly extend across a substantial part of the local cross-section.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows one clearly visible, longer, wider, or deeper crack, or several smaller cracks confined to a limited section. The characteristic affects a larger area but does not dominate the structural condition of the affected material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows a long, wide, deep, or clearly open crack, or several prominent cracks affecting a substantial area. The crack or cracks extend significantly into the material and clearly influence its visible structural condition.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

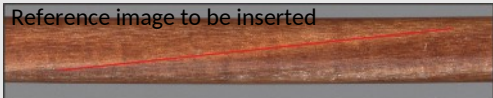
Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.17 Insect Holes and Insect Channels in the Bow Blank

Insect holes and insect channels refer to visible openings, cavities, or elongated passages caused by insect activity within the wood. They may appear as isolated surface holes, partially exposed channels, or continuous internal passages with visible entry or exit points.

The severity level should be assessed based on the diameter, depth, length, number, and continuity of the holes or channels, as well as the proportion of the local cross-section affected. The anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

The possible repair, filling, or concealment of insect holes or channels should not determine their severity level. Respondents may explain in the comments whether and how professional intervention would alter their assessment of the bow blank's suitability for new bow making.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows one or only a few small insect holes or short superficial channels measuring less than approximately 0.8 mm in diameter. The characteristic affects only a small, localised area and does not visibly extend through a substantial part of the local cross-section.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows one or more clearly visible insect holes or channels of greater diameter, depth, or length. The characteristic remains confined to a limited section but visibly affects a larger part of the local wood structure.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows large, deep, continuous, or repeatedly occurring insect channels, possibly with identifiable entry and exit holes. The characteristic affects a substantial part of the local cross-section or clearly disrupts the structural continuity of the affected material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the head area of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

Homogeneity, Bending Effects, and Material Behaviour

3A.2.18 Insufficient Homogeneity in the Bow Blank

Insufficient homogeneity refers to local or repeated differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response within the bow blank or within the area intended to form the finished bow stick. These differences may cause uneven behaviour during working, bending, adjustment, or later use.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree and extent of these differences and their influence on the uniformity and predictability of the material's behaviour. The anticipated position should be considered separately in the assessment table.

This characteristic may not be reliably assessable by visual inspection alone. Where practical experience during working, bending, or adjustment is unavailable, respondents should select "Cannot assess".

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows minor, localised differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response. These differences are only slightly noticeable during handling, working, bending, or adjustment and do not clearly disturb the overall behaviour of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows clearly noticeable differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response. These differences cause uneven behaviour during working, bending, adjustment, or later use but remain confined to a limited section or a small number of areas.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows strong or repeated differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response. These differences cause markedly uneven, unstable, or unpredictable behaviour across several areas or a substantial section of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.19 Material-Related Irregularities Resulting from Bending or Adjustment

Material-related irregularities resulting from bending or adjustment refer to local changes in grain direction, surface structure, or shape that become visible during or after bending, straightening, or corrective work on the bow blank or intended bow stick.

The severity level should be assessed based on the visibility, extent, and structural prominence of the irregularity, as well as its effect on the uniform appearance and behaviour of the material. The anticipated position of the characteristic in the finished bow stick should be considered separately in the assessment table.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank shows a small, localised irregularity in grain direction, surface structure, or shape that becomes visible only upon close inspection. The affected area remains limited and does not clearly disturb the overall appearance or behaviour of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.
Moderate	The bow blank shows a clearly visible local irregularity, wave, or deformation in the grain, surface structure, or shape. The characteristic affects a larger but still limited area and noticeably disturbs the uniform appearance or behaviour of the material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the upper section of the finished bow stick.
Pronounced	The bow blank shows a strongly developed local wave, deformation, or structural irregularity. The characteristic is immediately visible and clearly affects the uniformity, shape, or behaviour of the affected material.  This example shows the characteristic in an area corresponding to the middle section of the finished bow stick.

For each anticipated stick section and quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.20 Tendency to Twist or Deviate Laterally Under Tension

This characteristic refers to a rotational or lateral deviation that becomes visible when the completed bow is tensioned, although the head, stick, and frog may appear aligned when the bow is untensioned.

It cannot normally be assessed reliably from the bow blank alone. Respondents should base their assessment on their professional experience of bows made from material showing this behaviour during final adjustment, testing, or later observation.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree of deviation under normal playing tension, its visibility, its effect on the alignment and functional behaviour of the bow, and the extent to which it can be corrected or compensated for.

The accompanying schematic illustration shows the change in alignment between the untensioned and tensioned bow and serves as the primary visual reference for this characteristic.



Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	When untensioned, the head, stick, and frog appear aligned along a common axis. Under normal playing tension, the stick shows a slight rotational or lateral deviation. The deviation is only weakly visible, has no clear functional effect, and can usually be compensated for through professional adjustment.
Moderate	When untensioned, the head, stick, and frog appear largely aligned. Under normal playing tension, a clearly visible rotational or lateral deviation develops. The deviation may affect alignment or playing behaviour. Professional adjustment may reduce it, but it remains partially visible or functionally noticeable.
Pronounced	When untensioned, the head, stick, and frog may appear aligned or nearly aligned. Under normal playing tension, the stick shows a strong and clearly visible rotational or lateral deviation. The deviation clearly affects alignment or functional behaviour and cannot be adequately corrected or compensated for through professional adjustment.

For each quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow blank and intended bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.21 Insufficient Bend Retention / Shape Instability

This characteristic refers to the tendency of the intended bow stick to lose or alter its established bend over time, including after professional correction or adjustment. It can normally be assessed only after the bow blank has been worked and bent and through subsequent observation of the completed bow.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree, frequency, and persistence of the shape change, as well as the extent to which the established bend can be restored and retained.

For this characteristic, the written description should be treated as the primary reference, as bend retention and shape stability cannot be assessed reliably from a static image alone.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The intended bow stick shows a minor and gradual tendency to alter its established bend over time. The change remains limited and can usually be corrected and retained through professional adjustment.
Moderate	The intended bow stick shows a clearly noticeable tendency to lose or alter its established bend over time. Professional correction may restore the intended shape, but the deviation may recur or remain partly unstable and may affect the consistency of the bow's playing behaviour.
Pronounced	The intended bow stick shows a strong and recurring tendency to lose or substantially alter its established bend. Even after professional correction, it repeatedly returns to a deviating or unstable shape and clearly affects the reliability or functional behaviour of the bow.

For each quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow blank and intended bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.22 Brittle Fracture Behaviour or Observable Break Risk

This characteristic refers to a tendency towards sudden brittle fracture or to observable indications of an increased break risk in the bow blank or intended bow stick. It should be distinguished from individual cracks or other local defects, which are assessed separately.

The severity level should be assessed based on the apparent brittleness, the ability of the material to absorb and distribute mechanical stress, and any professional evidence of an increased risk of sudden fracture.

This characteristic may not be reliably assessable by visual inspection alone. Respondents should base their assessment on their professional experience during working, bending, adjustment, testing, or later observation of completed bows.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The bow blank or intended bow stick shows minor indications of brittle material behaviour or a slightly increased break risk. The characteristic is not immediately apparent during normal working or use and does not cause a clear functional limitation.
Moderate	The bow blank or intended bow stick shows clearly recognisable brittle behaviour or professional indications of an increased break risk. Its ability to absorb or distribute mechanical stress appears noticeably reduced, although use for new bow making may still be possible with limitations.
Pronounced	The bow blank or intended bow stick shows strongly developed brittle behaviour or clear indications of a substantial break risk. Sudden fracture may occur with little or no warning during working, bending, tensioning, impact, or normal professional use.

For each quality category, rate the practical suitability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow blank and intended bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3A.2.23 General Comments on Material Characteristics and Structural Irregularities

Please use this field for any additional observations that could not be adequately expressed in the preceding assessment tables. Comments may include:

- instrument-specific differences
- distinctions between severity levels
- differences between anticipated stick sections or quality categories
- relevant dimensions or threshold values
- interactions between several material characteristics
- limitations of the reference material
- additional criteria relevant to the assessment, selection, working, or use of bow blanks for new bow making

Where relevant, please identify the characteristic or subsection to which your comment refers.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Conditional instrument display. In the online version, this subsection will show only the instrument groups selected in Section 2.4. Questions for other instrument groups will remain hidden unless the respondent actively adds them.

3A.2.24 Target Weight and Balance Ranges

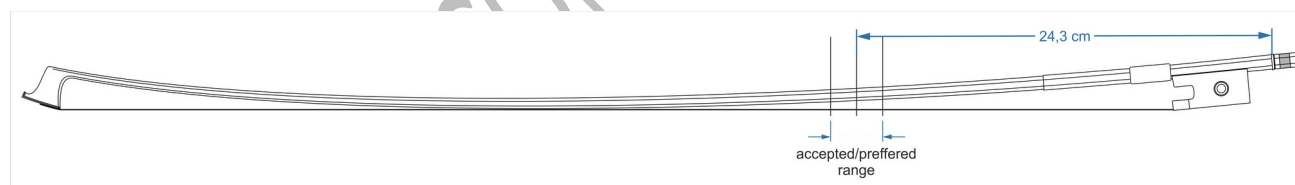
This section records the minimum-to-maximum ranges that you consider suitable when making new bows for the four instrument groups. The ranges are assessed independently of the quality categories used in the preceding sections.

Please provide ranges rather than individual preferred values. Enter information only where you can make a reliable professional assessment.

For the purposes of this question, stick-only weight refers to the completed bow stick before the frog, button, hair, winding, and thumb leather are fitted.

The balance point should be measured from the transition between the frog and the bow stick, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

Please base your ranges on your professional experience and take into account the intended bow model, playing characteristics, balance, handling, and the needs of the intended musician.



Instrument group	Target stick-only weight range:	Target finished-bow weight range:	Target finished-bow balance-point range:	Comments
Violin bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.
Viola bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cello bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.
Double bass bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Comments on Weight and Balance Ranges

Please describe any instrument-specific distinctions, differences between bow models, alternative measurement reference points, or requirements of musicians that influence the ranges you have provided.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Core and conditional content. All Routing A respondents will be asked which selection methods they use. Detailed follow-up questions will be displayed only for methods actually selected.

3A.3 Selection Methods

Which selection methods do you use when assessing Pre-Convention *Paubrasilia echinata* for new bow making? (required)

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Lucchi measurement / speed-of-sound measurement without density measurement
- ☐ Lucchi measurement / speed-of-sound measurement combined with density measurement
- ☐ Density measurement using Archimedes' principle
- ☐ ArcoMeter / ArcoWin measurement system for assessing physical properties
- ☐ Static bending test
- ☐ Other technical method used to assess modulus of elasticity, density, or related physical properties
- ☐ Manual selection based on professional experience
- ☐ General visual assessment of the bow blank
- ☐ Assessment of grain direction and alignment
- ☐ Assessment based on bow-blank weight
- ☐ Assessment based on the material's feel during working
- ☐ Tap-tone assessment of the bow blank
- ☐ Assessment of bending behaviour
- ☐ I do not use systematic selection methods
- ☒ Other method, please describe: _____

3A.3.1 Additional Description of the Selection Method

Please briefly describe your selection method if it is not fully covered by the options above.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3A.3.2 Frequency of Measurement or Assessment (conditional)

Display condition. This question will be shown only for methods selected in the preceding selection-method question.

Parameter	Measured regularly	Measured occasionally	Measured only for high-quality material	Measured only in cases of doubt	Estimated but not measured	Not used
Density	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Modulus of elasticity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Speed of sound / Lucchi value	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bow-blank weight	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bow-blank dimensions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3A.4 Physical Properties - General Guidance (conditional specialist module)

Display condition. This module will be shown only to respondents who report using physical measurements, documented physical ranges, or research-related material assessment. Each instrument subsection will be displayed only for the corresponding bow type selected in Section 2.4. Respondents who rely exclusively on visual and practical assessment will proceed directly to Section 3A.6.

Please indicate suitable combinations of density, modulus of elasticity, and, where applicable, Lucchi value or speed of sound for different instrument groups and quality categories.

Please provide ranges rather than isolated individual values. The purpose is to identify combinations of physical properties that, based on your professional experience, are suitable for new bow making.

Density should be entered in g/cm^3 and modulus of elasticity in GPa.

For respondents who normally work in N/mm^2 :

1 GPa = 1,000 N/mm^2

Example: 28,000 N/mm^2 = 28 GPa.

If you indicated in Section 3A.3 that you use Lucchi measurement or speed-of-sound measurement, please also enter the range that you consider suitable for the relevant instrument group and quality category.

If your selection is mainly manual, experience-based, or not supported by numerical measurement, you may leave the fields for density, modulus of elasticity, and Lucchi value blank where you cannot provide reliable ranges. Please use the comment fields to explain relevant practical criteria where appropriate.

The values entered should reflect suitable combinations rather than independent minimum or maximum limits for individual properties.

3A.4.1 Violin Bows

Do you make or assess violin bows? (required)

Select one option.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Quality category	Density from (g/cm^3)	Density to (g/cm^3)	Modulus of elasticity from (GPa)	Modulus of elasticity to (GPa)	Lucchi value	Comments
Student-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Orchestral-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Master-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments

3A.4.2 Viola Bows

Do you make or assess viola bows? (required)

Select one option.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Quality category	Density from (g/cm ³)	Density to (g/cm ³)	Modulus of elasticity from (GPa)	Modulus of elasticity to (GPa)	Lucchi value	Comments
Student-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Orchestral level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Master-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments

3A.4.3 Cello Bows

Do you make or assess cello bows? (required)

Select one option.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Quality category	Density from (g/cm ³)	Density to (g/cm ³)	Modulus of elasticity from (GPa)	Modulus of elasticity to (GPa)	Lucchi value	Comments
Student-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Orchestral-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Master-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments

3A.4.4 Double Bass Bows

Do you make or assess double bass bows? (required)

Select one option.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Quality category	Density from (g/cm ³)	Density to (g/cm ³)	Modulus of elasticity from (GPa)	Modulus of elasticity to (GPa)	Lucchi value	Comments
Student-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Orchestral-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments
Master-level bows	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	from ____ to ____	Comments

3A.5 Reliability of the Physical Ranges (conditional)

Display condition. This section will appear only if the respondent has entered one or more physical ranges in Section 3A.4.

3A.5.1 Basis of the Reported Ranges

How would you describe the basis for the density, modulus-of-elasticity, and, where applicable, Lucchi-value or speed-of-sound ranges you provided? (required)

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Based on regular measurements
- ☐ Based on occasional measurements
- ☐ Based on workshop documentation or recorded measurement data
- ☐ Based on many years of practical experience
- ☐ Based mainly on manual selection and working experience
- ☐ Based mainly on visual assessment
- ☐ Based on information from dealers, suppliers, or other professional sources
- ☐ Based partly on estimates
- ☐ I did not provide numerical ranges
- ☐ Other: _____

3A.5.2 Confidence in the Reported Ranges

How confident are you in the ranges you provided?

- 1 = Not confident
- 2 = Slightly confident
- 3 = Moderately confident
- 4 = Very confident
- 5 = Fully confident

Select one option.

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ Not applicable, as I did not provide numerical ranges

3A.5.3 Additional Comments on the Reliability of the Reported Ranges

Please use this field to explain any limitations, differences between measured and experience-based values, variations among instrument groups, or other factors affecting the reliability of the ranges you provided.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3A.6 Access to Information, Regulatory Guidance, and Practical Effects

Shared-module routing. Respondents completing both Routing A and Routing B will answer the common questions on previous regulatory contact, information sources, accessibility, clarity, preferred support, and confidence only once. Routing A-specific questions on effects on bow making will then be added as a short profession-specific module.

The following questions concern access to information, professional guidance, and the practical effects of regulatory and documentation requirements relating to Pre-Convention *Paubrasilia echinata*.

They do not ask respondents to disclose information about individual bow blanks, bows, transactions, customers, past conduct, or possible non-compliance. Please answer only in general terms based on your professional experience and perception.

3A.6.1 Previous Professional Contact with Regulatory Questions

Before completing this survey, to what extent had you encountered questions concerning CITES or Pre-Convention documentation in your professional work?

Select one option.

- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Not previously
- ☐ Cannot assess

3A.6.2 Situations in Which Information May Be Needed

In which situations would clear information about CITES and Pre-Convention documentation be useful for your professional work?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Purchasing bow blanks or other starting material
- ☐ Selecting material for new bow making
- ☐ Making and documenting a new bow
- ☐ Selling a newly made bow
- ☐ Advising a musician before purchase
- ☐ Advising a musician before international travel
- ☐ Temporary cross-border transport of a bow
- ☐ International sale or shipment
- ☐ Valuation or insurance documentation
- ☐ Repair or restoration
- ☐ Transfer through inheritance, donation, or private sale
- ☐ Preparing professional records for future ownership changes
- ☐ I have not yet encountered such a situation
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3A.6.3 Sources of Information

Where would you currently look for reliable information about CITES and Pre-Convention documentation?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ National CITES Management Authority
- ☐ Other national government authority
- ☐ CITES website or official CITES documents
- ☐ European Union information, where applicable
- ☐ Professional association
- ☐ Bow-making or violin-making organisation
- ☐ Specialist dealer or auction house
- ☐ Legal adviser or specialist consultant

- ☐ Colleagues or professional network
- ☐ Online search or general internet sources
- ☐ I would not know where to look
- ☐ Other: _____

3A.6.4 Accessibility of Reliable Information

How easy or difficult is it, in your experience, to find reliable information relevant to your country and professional situation?

Select one option.

- ☐ Very easy
- ☐ Rather easy
- ☐ Neither easy nor difficult
- ☐ Rather difficult
- ☐ Very difficult
- ☐ I have not previously looked for this information
- ☐ Cannot assess

3A.6.5 Clarity of Available Information

How clear and understandable is the information currently available to you?

Select one option.

- ☐ Very clear and understandable
- ☐ Mostly clear
- ☐ Partly clear and partly unclear
- ☐ Mostly unclear
- ☐ Very unclear
- ☐ I have not previously consulted such information
- ☐ Cannot assess

3A.6.6 Areas Requiring Clearer Guidance

For which subjects would clearer or more accessible guidance be particularly useful?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Meaning and practical application of Pre-Convention status
- ☐ Evidence that may be accepted as proof of legal origin or acquisition
- ☐ Documentation of bow blanks and workshop material
- ☐ Documentation of newly made bows
- ☐ Sale within the respondent's own country
- ☐ Sale within the European Union, where applicable
- ☐ International sale or shipment
- ☐ Temporary travel by musicians
- ☐ Musical Instrument Certificates or comparable documents
- ☐ Repair, restoration, or replacement of parts
- ☐ Transfers through inheritance, donation, or private sale
- ☐ Responsibilities of bow makers
- ☐ Responsibilities of dealers
- ☐ Responsibilities of musicians or owners
- ☐ Differences between national procedures
- ☐ Contact details and responsibilities of the competent authorities
- ☐ Other: _____

3A.6.7 Preferred Forms of Information and Support

Which forms of information or support would be most useful?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ A concise official guide for bow makers, dealers, and musicians
- ☐ A country-specific checklist
- ☐ A decision tree for common professional situations
- ☐ Standardised terminology and definitions
- ☐ Examples of acceptable supporting documents
- ☐ Standardised documentation templates
- ☐ A searchable official online information portal
- ☐ Direct contact with a competent authority
- ☐ A specialist contact point for musical instruments
- ☐ Training sessions or webinars
- ☐ Guidance provided through professional associations
- ☐ Multilingual information
- ☐ Regular updates when rules or procedures change
- ☐ Other: _____

Optional professional-perspective questions. Questions on effects outside the respondent's direct field will be optional. They will be shown when the respondent reports relevant experience or chooses to contribute an informed cross-professional perspective.

3A.6.8 Effects on Musicians (optional where professionally relevant)

Based on your professional experience, which effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on musicians?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Uncertainty before purchasing a bow
- ☐ Uncertainty about international travel
- ☐ Difficulty obtaining suitable documentation
- ☐ Delays before concerts, auditions, tours, or study periods abroad
- ☐ Additional administrative costs
- ☐ Additional professional or legal consultation costs
- ☐ Reduced willingness to purchase older or newly made bows containing regulated material
- ☐ Reduced choice of suitable bows
- ☐ Concern about resale, inheritance, or future transfer
- ☐ Dependence on assistance from bow makers or dealers
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3A.6.9 Effects on Bow Makers

Based on your professional experience, which effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on bow makers?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Additional administrative work
- ☐ Additional documentation responsibilities
- ☐ Difficulty advising musicians reliably
- ☐ Uncertainty when purchasing material
- ☐ Uncertainty when selling newly made bows
- ☐ Delays in completing a sale or transfer
- ☐ Additional professional or legal consultation costs
- ☐ Reduced use of otherwise suitable legal material

- ☐ Reduced access to international customers
- ☐ Increased responsibility for explaining requirements to musicians
- ☐ Reputational risk arising from unclear procedures
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3A.6.10 Effects on Trade and Professional Cooperation (optional where professionally relevant)

Which broader effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on trade and professional cooperation?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Reduced domestic marketability
- ☐ Reduced international marketability
- ☐ Delays in cross-border transactions
- ☐ Differences in interpretation between countries
- ☐ Difficulty coordinating with authorities
- ☐ Difficulty coordinating among bow makers, dealers, musicians, and owners
- ☐ Increased transaction costs
- ☐ Reduced customer confidence
- ☐ Reduced willingness to handle older bows or existing legal stocks
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3A.6.11 Confidence in Obtaining Appropriate Guidance

How confident are you that you could identify an appropriate source of guidance before dealing with an unfamiliar regulatory or documentation question?

Select one option.

- ☐ Fully confident
- ☐ Mostly confident
- ☐ Moderately confident
- ☐ Slightly confident
- ☐ Not confident
- ☐ Cannot assess

3A.6.12 Additional Comments

Please use this field for general comments on access to information, communication by authorities, professional guidance, the needs of musicians, or the practical effects of regulatory and documentation requirements.

Please do not include names, identifiable transactions, individual instruments, customers, or details of possible non-compliance.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3A.7 Optional Upload of Supporting Material

Optional specialist contribution. This module is voluntary and will be collapsed by default in the online version. It will open only when the respondent chooses to provide supporting material.

You may optionally upload supporting material that helps explain or document your professional assessment of *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks.

Supporting material may include:

- photographs of bow blanks or material characteristics
- measurement records or workshop documentation
- diagrams, tables, or technical notes
- examples illustrating selection methods or assessment criteria
- other relevant professional material

Please do not upload documents containing confidential customer information, personal data, or information that you are not authorised to share.

3A.7.1 Description of the Supporting Material

Please briefly describe the file or files you are providing and indicate the question, method, material characteristic, or topic to which they relate.

Optionale Dateibeschreibung oder Referenz.

3A.7.2 Optional File Upload

Upload file or files.

3A.8 Additional Comments for Bow Makers (optional)

Purpose of this field. This field is reserved for Routing A-specific observations not already entered with an individual characteristic. General final comments should be entered only once in Section 4.

Please use this field for any additional professional observations that have not been covered in the preceding questions.

Comments may include:

- additional selection criteria
- differences between instrument groups
- differences between quality categories
- limitations of physical measurements
- interactions between physical properties and material characteristics
- workshop practices not captured elsewhere in the survey
- changes in selection standards over time
- effects of material availability on selection decisions
- other factors relevant to the assessment and use of *Paubrasilia echinata* for new bow making

Where possible, please indicate the question or topic to which your comment refers.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Section 3B – Violin Makers and Dealers / Trade, Valuation from Existing Bows

This section is for respondents whose professional work involves existing bows, including valuation, trade, purchase, sale, restoration, repair, customer advice, or market assessment.

3B.1 Professional Context

3B.1.1 Professional Activities (required)

Online routing note. The selected activities will determine which specialist modules are displayed. Questions on valuation and saleability will be shown to respondents active in trade, dealership, valuation, auction, or expert assessment. Questions on repair and restoration effects will be shown to respondents active in repair or restoration. Customer-advice and cooperation questions will be shown where those activities are selected.

Which of the following activities form part of your professional work?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Violin Making
- ☐ Bow trade
- ☐ Instrument and bow dealership
- ☐ Valuation
- ☐ Restoration
- ☐ Repair
- ☐ Customer advice
- ☐ Auction or expert assessment
- ☐ Other _____

3B.1.2 Frequency of Professional Contact with *Paubrasilia echinata* Bows (required)

Quality-category and instrument routing. The online version will display detailed assessment columns only for the quality categories selected in Section 2.4. Instrument-specific weight and balance questions will be displayed only for the bow types selected there. Respondents may add another category or bow type later if relevant.

How often do you assess, handle, value, repair, restore, or trade bows made from *Paubrasilia echinata*?

Select one option.

- ☐ Daily or almost daily
- ☐ Several times per week
- ☐ Several times per month
- ☐ Several times per year
- ☐ Rarely

3B.2 Critical Threshold Assessment of Material Characteristics in Existing Bows

Each material characteristic is described at three predefined severity levels: slight, moderate, and pronounced.

For every severity level, please assess its practical acceptability in relation to the category of the bow and, where applicable, its position on the stick.

The severity level is defined by the accompanying description and reference material. The 1–5 rating refers only to professional acceptability, not to the severity of the characteristic itself.

The purpose of this section is to document professional assessment practices for existing bows. Ratings should reflect practical acceptability in trade, valuation, restoration, repair, customer advice, and long-term professional use. They are not intended to establish universally binding rejection criteria.

Stick Sections Used Where Position-Dependent Assessment Applies

Stick section	Definition
Head area	Head and the immediately adjacent upper part of the stick
Upper section of the stick	Approximately the first 20 cm after the head
Middle section of the stick	Visible middle section of the stick
Winding / lapping area	Area where irregularities may disappear under the winding or lapping
Visible end of the stick	Last visible centimetres of the stick near the frog

The reference material appears directly before the corresponding assessment item and is intended to help distinguish slight, moderate, and pronounced manifestations.

Rating Scale for All Assessment Tables

Rating	Meaning
1	Unproblematic / fully acceptable
2	Minor concern
3	Acceptable with limitations
4	Problematic / acceptable only in exceptional cases
5	Unacceptable

In each assessment cell:

S = Slight

M = Moderate

P = Pronounced

CA = Cannot assess

N/A = Not applicable

Please select one acceptability rating from 1 to 5 for each severity level.

Use “Cannot assess” where a reliable professional judgement is not possible. Use “Not applicable” where the characteristic or position is not relevant. Additional explanations may be entered in the comments field.

Structural Note

For easier orientation, the material characteristics are arranged in five thematic groups:

- Grain Direction and Growth-Ring Structure
- Colour, Deposits, Porosity, and Visual Structure
- Inclusions and Knot-Related Characteristics
- Cracks and Visible Localised Damage
- Homogeneity, Bending Effects, and Material Behaviour

These headings are used only to organise the survey. They do not alter the assessment method, rating scale, or comparability of the individual characteristics.

Core assessment module. The material-characteristic assessments remain the principal common module and will not be shortened by removing severity levels or position-dependent distinctions. Online routing will reduce burden primarily by suppressing quality-category columns outside the respondent's professional work and by keeping instructions available in a compact help panel.

Grain Direction and Growth-Ring Structure

3B.2.1 Twisted Grain in the Finished Bow Stick

Twisted grain refers to a helical rotation of the grain around the longitudinal axis of the stick. It should be distinguished from diagonal grain direction, in which the grain runs at an angle but does not rotate helically around the longitudinal axis.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The grain shows a slight helical deviation around the longitudinal axis of the stick. The twisted grain is localised or visible only upon close inspection and does not clearly characterise the overall grain pattern of the affected section.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.
Moderate	The grain shows a clearly visible helical course around the longitudinal axis of the stick. The twisted grain extends over a larger section and noticeably influences the visible grain pattern, while remaining limited in extent.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The grain follows a strongly developed helical course around the longitudinal axis of the stick. The twisted grain extends over a substantial section and clearly characterises the visible grain pattern of the affected area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

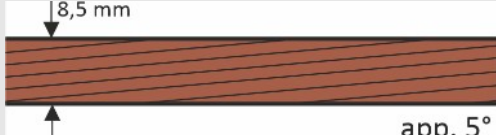
For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.2 Diagonal Grain Direction in the Finished Bow Stick

Diagonal grain direction refers to a straight or predominantly straight deviation of the visible grain from the longitudinal axis of the stick. Unlike twisted grain, the grain does not rotate helically around the longitudinal axis.

The severity level should be assessed based on both the angle of deviation and the length of the affected section. Where these two criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The visible grain deviates by up to approximately 5° from the longitudinal axis of the stick and/or runs diagonally over only a short section. The deviation is subtle and may be visible only upon close inspection.  8,5 mm app. 5° The schematic illustration shows an 8.5 mm-thick bow stick with a grain angle of approximately 5°.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.
Moderate	The visible grain deviates by more than approximately 5° but less than 10° from the longitudinal axis of the stick and/or runs diagonally over a clearly visible, larger section. The deviation noticeably influences the grain pattern but does not dominate the appearance of the affected section.  8,5 mm app. 7-8° The schematic illustration shows an 8.5 mm-thick bow stick with a grain angle of approximately 7-8°.
Pronounced	The visible grain deviates by 10° or more from the longitudinal axis of the stick and/or runs diagonally over a substantial section. The diagonal orientation clearly characterises the visible grain pattern of the affected area.  8,5 mm app. 10° The schematic illustration shows an 8.5 mm-thick bow stick with a grain angle of approximately 10°.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

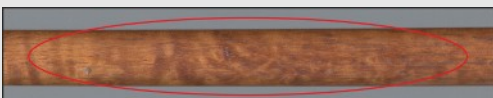
For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.3 Wavy Grain in the Finished Bow Stick

Wavy grain refers to repeated or localised changes in grain direction that form visible waves along the length of the stick. Unlike twisted grain, the grain does not rotate helically around the longitudinal axis. Unlike diagonal grain direction, it does not maintain a predominantly straight and uniformly inclined course.

The severity level should be assessed based on the amplitude, frequency, and extent of the visible waves. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The grain shows a slight, localised change in direction forming one or only a few shallow waves. The deviation affects only a short section and may be visible only upon close inspection.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The grain shows clearly visible waves with a greater change in direction and/or several repeated waves. The characteristic extends over a larger but still limited section and noticeably influences the visible grain pattern.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The grain shows strongly developed, repeated, or closely spaced waves with marked changes in direction. The characteristic extends over a substantial section and clearly defines the visible grain pattern of the affected area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.4 Irregular Growth-Ring Structure in the Finished Bow Stick

Irregular growth-ring structure refers to visible variations in the spacing, width, curvature, or direction of the growth rings within the finished bow stick. The characteristic may occur locally or extend over a larger section of the stick.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree of variation, the number of affected growth rings, and the extent of the irregularity along the stick. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

For this characteristic, the written description should be treated as the primary reference, as standardised visual examples may not reliably represent the full range of growth-ring irregularities.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The growth rings show minor, localised variations in spacing, width, curvature, and/or direction. The irregularity affects only a small area and may be visible only upon close inspection.
Moderate	The growth rings show clearly visible and repeated variations in spacing, width, curvature, and/or direction. The irregularity affects a larger but still limited section and noticeably influences the visible structure of the stick.
Pronounced	The growth-ring structure is strongly uneven and shows marked or repeated variations in spacing, width, curvature, and/or direction. The irregularity extends over a substantial section and clearly characterises the visible structure of the affected area.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.5 Growth-Ring Orientation in the Bow Head

Growth-ring orientation in the bow head is assessed at the front face of the head. For the purposes of this survey, a horizontal growth-ring orientation is defined as 0° and serves as the reference position.

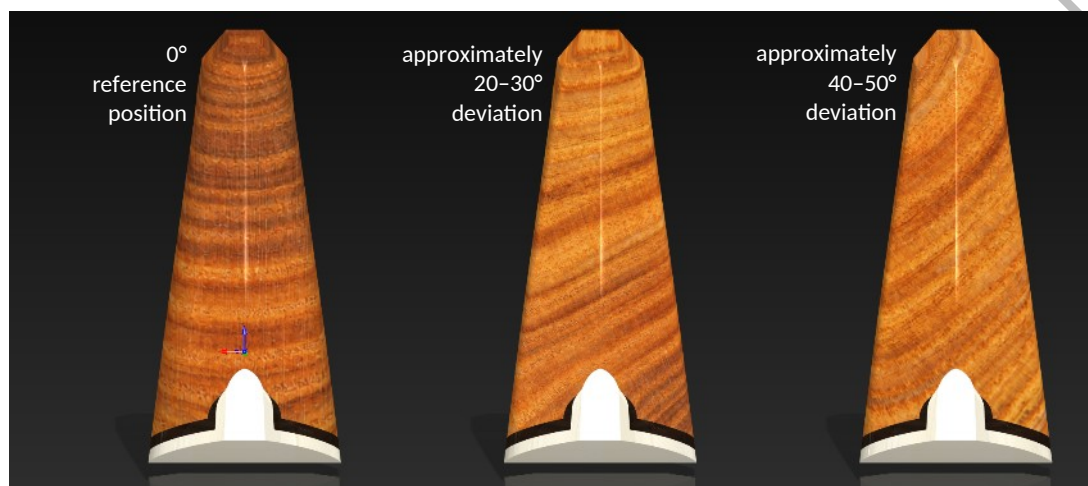
This 0° reference corresponds to a radial or quarter-sawn growth-ring orientation, commonly referred to in German bow-making terminology as "Spiegelschnitt".

Please indicate the maximum deviation from this reference position that you would still accept for each quality category. The question concerns professional acceptability and is not intended to establish a universally binding technical limit.

0° = horizontal growth-ring orientation at the front face of the bow head

90° = growth-ring orientation perpendicular to the 0° reference position

Select one option per quality category.



Quality category	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	Cannot assess
Student-level bows	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Orchestral-level bows	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Master-level / soloist bows	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Comments on Growth-Ring Orientation in the Bow Head

Please use this field to explain any qualifications, differences between instrument groups, or other criteria influencing the acceptable angular limits you have indicated.

Click or tap here to enter text.

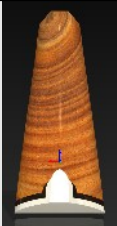
3B.2.6 Pith or Proximity to the Pith in the Finished Bow Stick

Pith or proximity to the pith refers to material originating from or close to the central region of the tree stem. In a finished bow, this may be indicated by strongly curved growth rings, an eccentric growth-ring pattern, or the visible presence of pith-related tissue.

The front face of the bow head serves as the primary visual reference because it provides the clearest visible cross-sectional indication of the growth-ring curvature and the material's estimated proximity to the centre of the tree stem.

The professional assessment, however, applies to the bow stick rather than only to the visible head cross-section.

The severity level should be assessed based on the curvature and arrangement of the growth rings, the estimated proximity to the centre of the tree stem, the possible presence of pith-related tissue, and the proportion of the visible cross-section affected. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description	
Slight	 This is an example from the front face of the head.	The growth rings appear largely straight or only slightly curved in the visible cross-section. The pattern suggests that the material originates from a position relatively distant from the centre of the tree stem.
Moderate	 This is an example from the front face of the head.	The growth rings show a clearly visible curvature in the visible cross-section. The pattern suggests that the material originates from a position closer to the centre of the tree stem, without visibly including the pith itself.
Pronounced	 This is an example from the front face of the head.	The growth rings appear strongly curved, concentric, or almost arc-shaped in the visible cross-section. The pattern suggests that the material originates from very close to the centre of the tree stem, or that the visible cross-section includes pith-related tissue.

For each quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

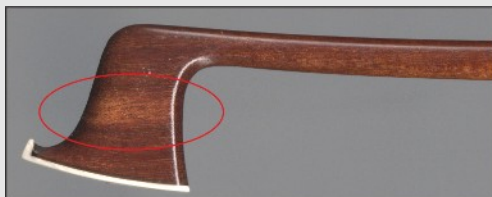
Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
	M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
	P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

Colour, Deposits, Porosity, and Visual Structure

3B.2.7 Colour Variation in the Finished Bow Stick

Colour variation refers to visible differences in tone, intensity, or distribution of colour within the finished bow stick. These differences may occur as local transitions, contrasting areas, or repeated variations along the stick.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree of contrast, the size and number of affected areas, and the extent to which the colour variation influences the overall appearance of the affected section or the bow stick. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows minor, localised colour differences or subtle transitions between lighter and darker areas. The variation affects only a small area and may be visible only upon close inspection.  This is an example from the head area.
Moderate	The stick shows clearly visible colour differences or contrasting transitions affecting a larger but still limited section. The variation noticeably influences the appearance of the affected area without dominating the overall appearance of the stick.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows strong, extensive, or repeatedly occurring colour differences with marked contrast. The variation extends over a substantial section and clearly characterises the overall appearance of the affected area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.8 Dark Streaks or Mineral Deposits in the Finished Bow Stick

Dark streaks or mineral deposits refer to visible dark linear markings, localised deposits, or contrasting inclusions within the wood that differ clearly from the surrounding colour and structure of the finished bow stick.

The severity level should be assessed based on the width, intensity, number, and extent of the dark streaks or deposits, as well as the degree to which they influence the visible appearance of the stick. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows one or only a few narrow, faint dark streaks or small, localised mineral deposits. The characteristic affects only a limited area and may be visible only upon close inspection.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows clearly visible dark streaks or mineral deposits affecting a larger but still limited section or occurring at several points. The characteristic noticeably influences the appearance of the affected area without dominating the overall appearance of the stick.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows broad, strongly contrasting, or repeatedly occurring dark streaks or pronounced mineral deposits. The characteristic extends over a substantial section and clearly defines the visible appearance of the affected area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

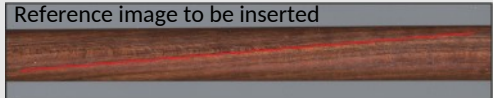
For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.9 Fungal Discolouration in the Finished Bow Stick

Fungal discolouration refers to localised or extensive changes in colour that may be associated with fungal activity or biological alteration of the wood. It should be distinguished from naturally occurring colour variation and from dark streaks or mineral deposits.

The severity level should be assessed based on the intensity, size, number, distribution, and extent of the discoloured areas, as well as any visible indication that the characteristic is associated with altered material structure. The position of the characteristic on the stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where the descriptive criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows one or only a few small, faint, and localised areas of discolouration. The characteristic affects only a limited area and may be visible only upon close inspection. Reference image to be inserted  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows clearly visible discolouration affecting a larger but still limited area or occurring at several points. The characteristic noticeably influences the appearance of the affected section without dominating the overall appearance of the stick. Reference image to be inserted  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows strong, extensive, repeated, or high-contrast discolouration affecting a substantial section. The characteristic clearly defines the visible appearance of the affected area and may be associated with altered material structure. Reference image to be inserted  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

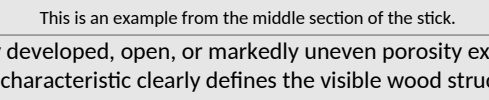
For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.10 Coarse or Uneven Porosity in the Finished Bow Stick

Coarse or uneven porosity refers to visibly enlarged, irregularly distributed, or markedly open pores in the wood structure of the finished bow stick. This characteristic may occur locally or extend over a larger section of the stick.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, depth, number, distribution, and extent of the visible pores, as well as the degree to which they affect the uniformity and appearance of the wood structure. The position of the characteristic on the stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where the descriptive criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows slightly enlarged or unevenly distributed pores affecting only a small, localised area. The characteristic may be visible only upon close inspection and does not clearly disturb the overall uniformity of the wood structure.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows clearly visible coarse, enlarged, or unevenly distributed pores affecting a larger but still limited section. The characteristic noticeably interrupts the uniform appearance of the wood structure.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows strongly developed, open, or markedly uneven porosity extending over a substantial section. The characteristic clearly defines the visible wood structure and gives the affected area a distinctly coarse or non-uniform appearance.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.11 Visual Irregularities without Apparent Structural Effect in the Finished Bow Stick

Visual irregularities without apparent structural effect refer to visible variations in colour, surface appearance, grain pattern, or texture that do not show any recognisable influence on the strength, stability, or functional behaviour of the finished bow stick.

This category should be used only for visual irregularities that are not already covered by the preceding material characteristics.

The severity level should be assessed based on the visibility, contrast, size, number, and extent of the irregularities, as well as the degree to which they influence the overall appearance of the stick. The position should be considered separately in the assessment table.

For this characteristic, the written description should be treated as the primary reference, as standardised visual examples may not adequately represent the broad range of possible visual irregularities.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows one or only a few minor visual irregularities that may be noticeable only upon close inspection. They affect only a small, localised area and show no apparent influence on the structural or functional behaviour of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows clearly visible irregularities affecting a larger but still limited area or occurring at several points. They noticeably influence the appearance of the affected section but show no apparent structural or functional effect.
Pronounced	The stick shows strong, immediately noticeable, extensive, or repeatedly occurring visual irregularities. They clearly define the appearance of a substantial section of the affected area but show no apparent structural or functional effect.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

Inclusions and Knot-Related Characteristics

3B.2.12 Inclusions in the Finished Bow Stick

Inclusions refer to localised embedded features or structurally distinct areas within the wood that cannot be clearly identified as knots or knot traces. They may differ from the surrounding material in colour, texture, density, or grain structure.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, number, depth, visibility, and extent of the inclusions, as well as the degree to which they alter the surrounding grain structure. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows one or only a few small, localised inclusions that are visible only upon close inspection. The surrounding grain is only slightly disturbed, and the characteristic affects only a small area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows one clearly visible inclusion, a larger localised inclusion, or several smaller inclusions. The surrounding grain is visibly deflected, but the characteristic remains confined to a limited section of the affected area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows a large, prominent, deep, or repeatedly occurring inclusion. The surrounding grain is strongly deflected, and the characteristic clearly affects the grain direction, appearance, and structural uniformity of a substantial area of the affected section.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.13 Knot Traces in the Finished Bow Stick

Knot traces refer to visible remnants or indications of former branch growth that alter the local colour, grain direction, or structure of the wood without forming a clearly developed knot in the finished bow stick. They should be distinguished from non-specific inclusions and from clearly identifiable knots.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, visibility, depth, and extent of the knot trace, as well as the degree to which it alters the surrounding grain direction or structure. The position of the characteristic on the stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where the descriptive criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows a small, localised knot trace that may be visible only upon close inspection. It causes only a minor change in colour, grain direction, or surface structure and affects only a small area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows a clearly visible knot trace with a noticeable local change in colour, grain direction, or structure. The characteristic affects a larger but still limited area and visibly disturbs the otherwise uniform grain pattern.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows a prominent, extensive, or deeply embedded knot trace. The surrounding grain is clearly deflected or structurally altered, and the characteristic significantly affects the appearance and local uniformity of the affected area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

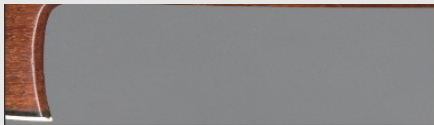
For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.14 Knots in the Finished Bow Stick

Knots refer to clearly identifiable remnants of branch growth embedded in the wood of the finished bow stick. They are characterised by a distinct knot structure and a local deflection of the surrounding grain. They should be distinguished from knot traces, which indicate former branch growth without forming a clearly developed knot.

The severity level should be assessed based on the size, depth, number, and structural prominence of the knots, as well as the degree to which they deflect the surrounding grain or affect the local cross-section of the finished bow stick. The position of the characteristic on the stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description	
Slight	The stick shows a small, firmly embedded knot affecting only a limited area. The surrounding grain is only slightly deflected, and only a small proportion of the local cross-section appears to be involved.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.	
Moderate	The stick shows a clearly visible knot of greater size or depth. The surrounding grain is noticeably deflected, and the knot locally interrupts the uniform structure of the material while remaining confined to a limited area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.	
Pronounced	The stick shows a large, deep, or structurally prominent knot. The surrounding grain is strongly deflected, and the knot affects a substantial part of the local cross-section or clearly disrupts the structural uniformity of the affected material.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.	

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

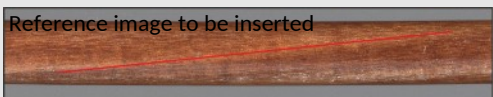
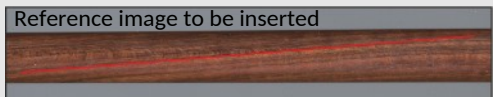
Cracks and Visible Localised Damage

3B.2.15 Hairline Cracks in the Finished Bow Stick

Hairline cracks refer to very fine, narrow, and usually superficial separations in the wood that are visible only upon close inspection. They should be distinguished from wider, deeper, or more clearly open small cracks.

Note: Hairline cracks may occur in bows of different origins, ages, and quality levels. Their presence alone does not permit a reliable conclusion regarding the overall quality, structural integrity, or usability of the bow stick. Assessment should therefore take account of their location, extent, depth, number, and any evidence of progression.

The severity level should be assessed based on the length, number, depth, distribution, and location of the hairline cracks, as well as any indication that they are progressing or developing into wider cracks. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows one or only a few very fine, short, and superficial hairline cracks. They affect only a small, localised area and may be visible only upon close inspection. Reference image to be inserted  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows longer, more numerous, or more readily visible hairline cracks that remain narrow and confined to a limited area. Some may extend slightly deeper into the surface, but they do not form clearly open cracks. Reference image to be inserted  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows numerous, extended, or repeatedly occurring hairline cracks affecting a larger area. The cracks remain predominantly fine but clearly influence the visible surface condition and may indicate a tendency towards further cracking. Reference image to be inserted  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.16 Small Cracks in the Finished Bow Stick

Small cracks refer to clearly identifiable local separations in the wood that are wider, deeper, or more distinct than hairline cracks but remain limited in length and extent. They should be distinguished from very fine superficial hairline cracks and from major structural fractures.

The severity level should be assessed based on the length, width, depth, number, and location of the cracks, as well as the proportion of the local cross-section affected. Where these criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

The possible reparability or stabilisation of a crack should not determine its severity level. Respondents may explain in the comments whether and how professional repair would alter their assessment.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows a single short, narrow, and shallow crack affecting only a small, localised area. The crack may be visible only upon close inspection and does not clearly extend across a substantial part of the stick cross-section.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows one clearly visible, longer, wider, or deeper crack, or several smaller cracks confined to a limited section. The characteristic affects a larger area but does not dominate the structural condition of the stick.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows a long, wide, deep, or clearly open crack, or several prominent cracks affecting a substantial area. The crack or cracks extend significantly into the stick and clearly influence its visible structural condition.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

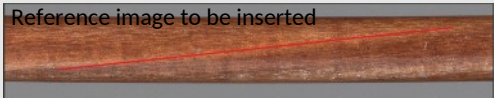
Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.17 Insect Holes and Insect Channels in the Finished Bow Stick

Insect holes and insect channels refer to visible openings, cavities, or elongated passages caused by insect activity within the wood. They may appear as isolated surface holes, partially exposed channels, or continuous internal passages with visible entry or exit points.

The severity level should be assessed based on the diameter, depth, length, number, and continuity of the holes or channels, as well as the proportion of the stick cross-section affected. The position of the characteristic on the stick should be considered separately in the assessment table. Where the descriptive criteria indicate different levels, respondents should use their overall professional judgement.

The possible repair, filling, or concealment of insect holes or channels should not determine their severity level. Respondents may explain in the comments whether and how professional intervention would alter their assessment.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows one or only a few small insect holes or short superficial channels measuring less than approximately 0.8 mm in diameter. The characteristic affects only a small, localised area and does not visibly extend through a substantial part of the stick cross-section.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows one or more clearly visible insect holes or channels of greater diameter, depth, or length. The characteristic remains confined to a limited section but visibly affects a larger part of the local wood structure.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows large, deep, continuous, or repeatedly occurring insect channels, possibly with identifiable entry and exit holes. The characteristic affects a substantial part of the local cross-section or clearly disrupts the structural continuity of the affected area.  This is an example from the head area.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

Homogeneity, Bending Effects, and Material Behaviour

3B.2.18 Insufficient Homogeneity in the Finished Bow Stick

Insufficient homogeneity refers to local or repeated differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response within the finished bow stick. These differences may cause uneven behaviour during bending, adjustment, repair, or use.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree and extent of these differences and their influence on the uniformity and predictability of the stick's behaviour. The position should be considered separately in the assessment table.

This characteristic may not be reliably assessable by visual inspection alone. Where practical experience, repair history, or long-term observation is unavailable, respondents should select "Cannot assess".

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows minor, localised differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response. These differences are only slightly noticeable during handling, bending, adjustment, or repair and do not clearly disturb the overall behaviour of the stick.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows clearly noticeable differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response. These differences cause uneven behaviour during bending, adjustment, repair, or use, but remain confined to a limited section or a small number of areas.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows strong or repeated differences in structure, hardness, density, stiffness, or material response. These differences cause markedly uneven, unstable, or unpredictable behaviour across several areas or a substantial section of the affected bow stick.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.19 Material-Related Irregularities Resulting from Bending or Adjustment

Material-related irregularities resulting from bending or adjustment refer to local changes in grain direction, surface structure, or shape that become visible after bending, straightening, or corrective work on the finished bow stick.

The severity level should be assessed based on the visibility, extent, and structural prominence of the irregularity, as well as its effect on the uniform appearance and behaviour of the bow stick. The position should be considered separately in the assessment table.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows a small, localised irregularity in grain direction or surface structure that becomes visible only upon close inspection. The affected area remains limited and does not clearly disturb the overall appearance or behaviour of the stick.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.
Moderate	The stick shows a clearly visible local irregularity, wave, or deformation in the grain or surface structure. The characteristic affects a larger but still limited area and noticeably disturbs the uniform appearance or behaviour of the stick.  This is an example from the upper section of the stick.
Pronounced	The stick shows a strongly developed local wave, deformation, or structural irregularity. The characteristic is immediately visible and clearly affects the uniformity, shape, or behaviour of the affected area.  This is an example from the middle section of the stick.

For each stick section and quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels using the 1–5 scale. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Position-Dependent Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Head area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Upper section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Middle section of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Winding / lapping area	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Visible end of the stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.20 Tendency to Twist or Deviate Laterally Under Tension

This characteristic refers to a rotational or lateral deviation that becomes visible when the bow is tensioned, although the head, stick, and frog may appear aligned when the bow is untensioned. It is assessed primarily through practical observation rather than from a static image.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree of deviation under normal playing tension, its visibility, and the extent to which it can be corrected or compensated for. The assessment applies to the bow stick.

The accompanying schematic illustration shows the change in alignment between the untensioned and tensioned bow and serves as the primary visual reference for this characteristic.



Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	When untensioned, the head, stick, and frog appear aligned along a common axis. Under normal playing tension, the stick shows a slight rotational or lateral deviation. The deviation is only weakly visible, has no clear functional effect, and can usually be compensated for through professional adjustment.
Moderate	When untensioned, the head, stick, and frog appear largely aligned. Under normal playing tension, a clearly visible rotational or lateral deviation develops. The deviation may affect the alignment or playing behaviour of the bow. Professional adjustment may reduce it, but it remains partially visible or functionally noticeable.
Pronounced	When untensioned, the head, stick, and frog may appear aligned or nearly aligned. Under normal playing tension, the stick shows a strong and clearly visible rotational or lateral deviation. The deviation clearly affects the alignment or functional behaviour of the bow and cannot be adequately corrected or compensated for through professional adjustment.

For each quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.21 Insufficient Bend Retention / Shape Instability

This characteristic refers to the tendency of the finished bow stick to lose or alter its established bend over time, including after professional correction or adjustment. It is assessed primarily through practical experience and long-term observation rather than from visual inspection alone.

The severity level should be assessed based on the degree, frequency, and persistence of the shape change, as well as the extent to which the established bend can be restored and retained. The assessment applies to the bow stick.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows a minor and gradual tendency to alter its established bend over time. The change remains limited and can usually be corrected and retained through professional adjustment.
Moderate	The stick shows a clearly noticeable tendency to lose or alter its established bend over time. Professional correction may restore the intended shape, but the deviation may recur or remain partly unstable and may affect the consistency of the bow's playing behaviour.
Pronounced	The stick shows a strong and recurring tendency to lose or substantially alter its established bend. Even after professional correction, it repeatedly returns to a deviating or unstable shape and clearly affects the reliability or functional behaviour of the bow.

For each quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.22 Brittle Fracture Behaviour or Observable Break Risk

This characteristic refers to a tendency towards sudden brittle fracture or to observable indications of an increased break risk in the finished bow stick. It should be distinguished from individual cracks or other local defects, which are assessed separately.

The severity level should be assessed based on the apparent brittleness, the ability of the material to absorb and distribute mechanical stress, and any professional evidence of an increased risk of sudden fracture. The assessment applies to the bow stick.

This characteristic may not be reliably assessable by visual inspection alone. Respondents should base their assessment on practical experience, repair history, testing, or long-term observation.

Severity Level	Reference Material and Description
Slight	The stick shows minor indications of brittle material behaviour or a slightly increased break risk. The characteristic is not immediately apparent in normal use and does not cause a clear functional limitation.
Moderate	The stick shows clearly recognisable brittle behaviour or professional indications of an increased break risk. Its ability to absorb or distribute mechanical stress appears noticeably reduced, although continued use may still be possible with limitations.
Pronounced	The stick shows strongly developed brittle behaviour or clear indications of a substantial break risk. Sudden fracture may occur with little or no warning under bending, tension, impact, or normal professional use.

For each quality category, rate the practical acceptability of the slight, moderate, and pronounced severity levels for the bow stick. Select CA if you cannot assess the characteristic and N/A if it is not applicable.

Overall Assessment	Student-level bows	Orchestral-level bows	Master-level / soloist bows
Bow stick	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A	S: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A M: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A P: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ CA ☐ N/A
Comments: Click or tap here to enter text.			

3B.2.23 General Comments on Material Characteristics and Structural Irregularities

Please use this field for any additional observations that could not be adequately expressed in the preceding assessment tables. Comments may include:

- instrument-specific differences
- distinctions between severity levels
- differences between stick sections or quality categories
- relevant dimensions or threshold values
- interactions between several material characteristics
- limitations of the reference material
- additional professional assessment criteria

Where relevant, please identify the characteristic or subsection to which your comment refers.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Conditional instrument display. In the online version, this subsection will show only the instrument groups selected in Section 2.4. Questions for other instrument groups will remain hidden unless the respondent actively adds them.

3B.2.24 Acceptable Weight and Balance Ranges

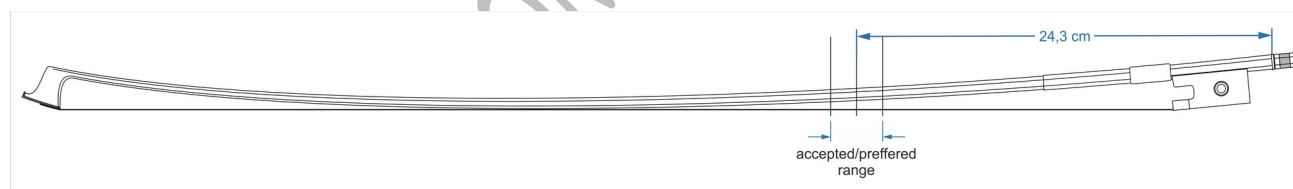
This section records the acceptable minimum-to-maximum ranges for stick weight, finished bow weight, and balance point for the four instrument groups. The ranges are assessed independently of the quality categories used in the preceding sections.

Please provide ranges rather than individual preferred values. Enter information only where you can make a reliable professional assessment.

For the purposes of this question, stick-only weight refers to the completed bow stick without the frog, button, hair, winding, and thumb leather.

The balance point should be measured from the transition between the frog and the bow stick, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

For existing bows, the weight of the stick alone may not be known or directly measurable. If a range cannot be assessed reliably, leave the relevant field blank and explain this in the comments.



Instrument group	Acceptable stick-only weight range	Acceptable finished-bow weight range	Acceptable finished bows balance-point range	Comments
Violin bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.
Viola bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cello bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.
Double bass bows	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ g	from ____ to ____ cm	Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Comments on Weight and Balance Ranges

Please describe any instrument-specific distinctions, differences between bow models, alternative measurement reference points, or requirements and preferences of musicians that influence the ranges you consider acceptable.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3B.3 Effects on Valuation, Saleability, and Trade (conditional specialist module)

Display condition. This module will be shown only to respondents who select bow trade, instrument and bow dealership, valuation, auction or expert assessment, or a comparable commercial activity in Section 3B.1.1. Other respondents may open it voluntarily if they have relevant experience.

3B.3.1 Factors Affecting Commercial Value or Saleability (required)

Which of the following factors may reduce the commercial value, saleability, or market acceptance of an existing bow made from Pre-Convention *Paubrasilia echinata*?

Select all that apply.

Visible material characteristics and damage

- ☐ Visible cracks
- ☐ Repaired cracks
- ☐ Irregular grain structure
- ☐ Twisted grain
- ☐ Diagonal grain direction
- ☐ Visible deformation or lateral deviation
- ☐ Insect holes or insect channels
- ☐ Knots, knot traces, or inclusions
- ☐ Strong colour variation or discolouration
- ☐ Coarse or uneven porosity

Structural and functional characteristics

- ☐ Structural weakness in the head area
- ☐ Structural weakness near the frog
- ☐ Brittle fracture behaviour or observable break risk
- ☐ Insufficient bend retention or shape instability
- ☐ Insufficient stiffness
- ☐ Excessive stiffness
- ☐ Poor balance
- ☐ Poor response or playing behaviour

Documentation, identification, and market perception

- ☐ Customer concern caused by visible material irregularities
- ☐ Uncertain identification of the wood species
- ☐ Unclear or missing Pre-Convention documentation
- ☐ Restrictions affecting international trade or transfer
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.3.2 Factor with the Greatest Influence

Which of the factors selected in Question 3B.3.1 usually has the greatest influence on your professional assessment of commercial value or saleability?

Select one option.

- ☐ Visible cracks
- ☐ Repaired cracks
- ☐ Irregular grain structure
- ☐ Twisted grain
- ☐ Diagonal grain direction
- ☐ Visible deformation or lateral deviation
- ☐ Insect holes or insect channels
- ☐ Knots, knot traces, or inclusions
- ☐ Strong colour variation or discolouration

Survey on the Suitability of *Paubrasilia echinata*
as Raw Material for Bow Making

- ☐ Coarse or uneven porosity
- ☐ Structural weakness in the head area
- ☐ Structural weakness near the frog
- ☐ Brittle fracture behaviour or observable break risk
- ☐ Insufficient bend retention or shape instability
- ☐ Insufficient stiffness
- ☐ Excessive stiffness
- ☐ Poor balance
- ☐ Poor response or playing behaviour
- ☐ Customer concern caused by visible material irregularities
- ☐ Uncertain identification of the wood species
- ☐ Unclear or missing Pre-Convention documentation
- ☐ Restrictions affecting international trade or transfer
- ☐ Other: _____

DRAFT - NOT COMPLETE FOR FILLING IN

3B.4 Access to Information, Regulatory Guidance, and Practical Effects

Shared and profession-specific routing. Respondents completing both Routing A and Routing B will answer the common questions on previous regulatory contact, information sources, accessibility, clarity, preferred support, and confidence only once. The online version will then display only the profession-specific effect modules relevant to the activities selected in Section 3B.1.1.

The following questions concern access to information, professional guidance, and the practical effects of regulatory and documentation requirements relating to Pre-Convention *Paubrasilia echinata* and bows made from it.

They do not ask respondents to disclose information about individual bows, transactions, customers, past conduct, or possible non-compliance. Please answer only in general terms based on your professional experience and perception.

3B.4.1 Previous Professional Contact with Regulatory Questions

Before completing this survey, to what extent had you encountered questions concerning CITES or Pre-Convention documentation in your professional work?

Select one option.

- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Not previously
- ☐ Cannot assess

3B.4.2 Situations in Which Information May Be Needed

In which situations would clear information about CITES and Pre-Convention documentation be useful for your professional work?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Purchasing an existing bow
- ☐ Selling an existing bow
- ☐ Taking a bow into consignment
- ☐ Valuing or appraising a bow
- ☐ Advising a musician before purchase
- ☐ Advising a musician before international travel
- ☐ Temporary cross-border transport of a bow
- ☐ International sale or shipment
- ☐ Auction or expert assessment
- ☐ Insurance valuation
- ☐ Repair or restoration
- ☐ Replacement of parts or materials
- ☐ Transfer through inheritance, donation, or private sale
- ☐ Preparing professional records for future ownership changes
- ☐ Professional certification or documentation
- ☐ I have not yet encountered such a situation
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.3 Sources of Information

Where would you currently look for reliable information about CITES and Pre-Convention documentation?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ National CITES Management Authority
- ☐ Other national government authority
- ☐ A decision tree for common professional situations
- ☐ Standardized terminology and definitions
- ☐ CITES website or official CITES documents

- ☐ European Union information, where applicable
- ☐ Professional association
- ☐ Violin-making or bow-making organisation
- ☐ Specialist dealer or auction house
- ☐ Legal adviser or specialist consultant
- ☐ Colleagues or professional network
- ☐ Online search or general internet sources
- ☐ I would not know where to look
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.4 Accessibility of Reliable Information

How easy or difficult is it, in your experience, to find reliable information relevant to your country and professional situation?

Select one option.

- ☐ Very easy
- ☐ Rather easy
- ☐ Neither easy nor difficult
- ☐ Rather difficult
- ☐ Very difficult
- ☐ I have not previously looked for this information
- ☐ Cannot assess

3B.4.5 Clarity of Available Information

How clear and understandable is the information currently available to you?

Select one option.

- ☐ Very clear and understandable
- ☐ Mostly clear
- ☐ Partly clear and partly unclear
- ☐ Mostly unclear
- ☐ Very unclear
- ☐ I have not previously consulted such information
- ☐ Cannot assess

3B.4.6 Areas Requiring Clearer Guidance

For which subjects would clearer or more accessible guidance be particularly useful?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Meaning and practical application of Pre-Convention status
- ☐ Evidence that may be accepted as proof of legal origin or acquisition
- ☐ Documentation of existing bows
- ☐ Documentation of repaired or restored bows
- ☐ Documentation following replacement of parts or materials
- ☐ Domestic sale or purchase
- ☐ Sale or purchase within the European Union, where applicable
- ☐ International sale or shipment
- ☐ Temporary travel by musicians
- ☐ Musical Instrument Certificates or comparable documents

- ☐ Auction or expert assessment
- ☐ Insurance valuation
- ☐ Transfers through inheritance, donation, or private sale
- ☐ Responsibilities of dealers
- ☐ Responsibilities of violin makers, restorers, or repairers
- ☐ Responsibilities of musicians or owners
- ☐ Differences between national procedures
- ☐ Contact details and responsibilities of the competent authorities
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.7 Preferred Forms of Information and Support

Which forms of information or support would be most useful?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ A concise official guide for dealers, violin makers, bow makers, and musicians
- ☐ A country-specific checklist
- ☐ A decision tree for common professional situations
- ☐ Standardised terminology and definitions
- ☐ Examples of acceptable supporting documents
- ☐ Standardised documentation templates
- ☐ A searchable official online information portal
- ☐ Direct contact with a competent authority
- ☐ A specialist contact point for musical instruments
- ☐ Training sessions or webinars
- ☐ Guidance provided through professional associations
- ☐ Multilingual information
- ☐ Regular updates when rules or procedures change
- ☐ Other: _____

Optional and activity-based questions. Questions on effects outside the respondent's direct field will be optional. Trade and valuation questions will be displayed for commercial or expert-assessment activities. Repair and restoration questions will be displayed for the corresponding workshop activities. Professional-cooperation questions will be displayed where international or cross-professional cooperation is reported.

3B.4.8 Effects on Musicians (optional where professionally relevant)

Based on your professional experience, which effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on musicians?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Uncertainty before purchasing a bow
- ☐ Uncertainty about selling or replacing a bow
- ☐ Uncertainty about international travel
- ☐ Difficulty obtaining suitable documentation
- ☐ Delays before concerts, auditions, tours, competitions, or study periods abroad
- ☐ Additional administrative costs
- ☐ Additional professional or legal consultation costs
- ☐ Reduced willingness to purchase older bows containing regulated material
- ☐ Reduced choice of suitable bows
- ☐ Concern about resale, inheritance, or future transfer
- ☐ Difficulty arranging insurance or valuation
- ☐ Dependence on assistance from bow makers, violin makers, or dealers
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.9 Effects on Dealers, Violin Makers, Restorers, and Other Specialists (activity-based)

Based on your professional experience, which effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on dealers, violin makers, restorers, repairers, or other specialists?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Additional administrative work
- ☐ Additional documentation responsibilities
- ☐ Difficulty advising musicians reliably
- ☐ Uncertainty when purchasing or accepting a bow
- ☐ Uncertainty when selling or transferring a bow
- ☐ Difficulty assessing saleability or commercial value
- ☐ Delays in completing a sale, repair, restoration, or transfer
- ☐ Additional professional or legal consultation costs
- ☐ Reduced willingness to handle otherwise marketable legal bows
- ☐ Reduced access to international customers or markets
- ☐ Increased responsibility for explaining requirements to musicians or owners
- ☐ Reputational risk arising from unclear procedures
- ☐ Difficulty coordinating with other specialists or authorities
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.10 Effects on Valuation, Saleability, and Trade (conditional)

Which effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on the professional valuation, saleability, or trade of bows?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Reduced domestic marketability
- ☐ Reduced international marketability
- ☐ Reduced commercial value
- ☐ Longer sales or consignment periods
- ☐ Delays in cross-border transactions
- ☐ Increased transaction costs
- ☐ Increased uncertainty in valuation
- ☐ Difficulty accepting bows for consignment or auction
- ☐ Reduced customer confidence
- ☐ Differences in interpretation between countries
- ☐ Difficulty coordinating with authorities
- ☐ Reduced willingness to purchase, sell, restore, or insure older bows
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.11 Effects on Repair and Restoration (conditional)

Which effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on repair and restoration work?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Uncertainty about whether documentation should be updated
- ☐ Uncertainty concerning replacement parts or materials
- ☐ Difficulty documenting interventions clearly

- ☐ Delays before repair or restoration can begin
- ☐ Additional administrative or consultation costs
- ☐ Difficulty advising the owner on future travel, sale, or transfer
- ☐ Reduced willingness to undertake certain interventions
- ☐ Difficulty coordinating with insurers, dealers, or authorities
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.12 Effects on Professional Cooperation (conditional)

Which broader effects can unclear, difficult-to-access, or inconsistent information have on cooperation among musicians, owners, dealers, violin makers, bow makers, restorers, auction houses, insurers, and authorities?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Increased misunderstandings between professional groups
- ☐ Difficulty assigning responsibilities
- ☐ Inconsistent advice to musicians or owners
- ☐ Repeated requests for the same information or documentation
- ☐ Delays in professional cooperation
- ☐ Increased costs
- ☐ Reduced trust between the parties involved
- ☐ Differences in interpretation between countries or authorities
- ☐ No substantial effect known to me
- ☐ Cannot assess
- ☐ Other: _____

3B.4.13 Confidence in Obtaining Appropriate Guidance

How confident are you that you could identify an appropriate source of guidance before dealing with an unfamiliar regulatory or documentation question?

Select one option.

- ☐ Fully confident
- ☐ Mostly confident
- ☐ Moderately confident
- ☐ Slightly confident
- ☐ Not confident
- ☐ Cannot assess

3B.4.14 Additional Comments

Please use this field for general comments on access to information, communication by authorities, professional guidance, the needs of musicians, or the practical effects of regulatory and documentation requirements.

Please do not include names, identifiable transactions, individual bows, customers, owners, or details of possible non-compliance.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3B.5 Additional Comments for Violin Makers and Dealers (optional)

Purpose of this field. This field is reserved for Routing B-specific observations not already entered with an individual characteristic or specialist module. General final comments should be entered only once in Section 4.

Please use this field for any additional professional observations that have not been covered in the preceding questions.

Survey on the Suitability of *Paubrasilia echinata*
as Raw Material for Bow Making

Comments may include:

- differences between instrument groups
- distinctions between trade, valuation, restoration, and repair
- market acceptance of visible material characteristics
- customer expectations
- documentation-related concerns
- limitations of the questionnaire
- additional criteria relevant to the assessment of existing bows made from Pre-Convention *Paubrasilia echinata*

Where possible, please indicate the question or topic to which your comment refers.

Click or tap here to enter text.

DRAFT - NOT COMPLETE FOR FILLING IN

Routing note for respondents completing both routes. Section 4, the final consent, and optional contact information will be presented only once after the respondent has completed all assigned routing modules.

Section 4 - Final Comments and Consent

4.1 Final Comments

Please use this field for any final observations relating to the professional assessment, selection, use, valuation, saleability, trade, restoration, repair, documentation, or long-term professional use of *Paubrasilia echinata* material or bows made from it.

You may also comment on issues not covered by the questionnaire, methodological limitations, differences between new bow making and the assessment of existing bows, or topics that should be considered in future research.

Where possible, please indicate the section, question, or professional context to which your comment refers.

Click or tap here to enter text.

4.2 Consent to Scientific Evaluation and Publication (required)

May your anonymous survey responses be used for scientific evaluation, analysis, and publication?

Select one option.

- ☐ Yes, I consent to the anonymous use of my responses
☐ No, I do not consent to the use of my responses for scientific evaluation or publication

4.3 Optional contact information

Providing contact details is entirely optional.

Any contact information provided will be stored separately from the anonymous survey responses and will not form part of the statistical evaluation.

Name: _____

Email address: _____

May we contact you if clarification or further professional input is required?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

End Message

Thank you for your participation and for contributing your professional experience.

Your responses will support a more differentiated understanding of the selection, assessment, use, valuation, saleability, trade, restoration, repair, documentation, and long-term professional use of *Paubrasilia echinata* material and bows made from it.