

Ericaceae

ARCTOSTAPHYLOS

Vessels typically very small (less than 50 μ mean tangential diameter) or moderately small (50-100 μ) in some spp. Ring-porous or semi-ring-porous; spiral thickening present in some spp. Perforation plates simple and scalariform in some spp, and exclusively simple, or with only rare scalariform plates in other spp. Intervascular pitting typically opposite and rather small or transitional; pits to ray cells usually similar to the opposite pitting and small, but sometimes with many large elongated pits. Mean member length 0.4-0.8 mm.

Parenchyma typically very sparse or absent; when present, often in contact with the vessels possibly owing to the frequency of the vessels rather than to any tendency to be paratracheal. Strands varying from 2-8 cells.

Rays usually of 2 distinct sizes where the larger rays are 4 or more cells wide, usually 4-10 cells wide; typically less than 1 mm. high. Uniseriate rays usually numerous and composed of high upright cells; usually 10-15 rays per mm. Heterogeneous (Kribs's Type II A or, less commonly, I), commonly with up to 4 marginal rows of upright cells. Sheath cells present in many of the woods with rays up to 5 or more cells wide. Commonly containing gummy deposits; crystals not observed.

Fibres typically with numerous bordered pits, the borders large and distinct. With a few septate fibres with simple pits mixed with the fibre-tracheids or with septate fibres predominating in some spp. Fibre-tracheids with spiral thickening present in some spp. Sometimes with very numerous bordered pits in cells adjacent to the vessels and suggestive of tracheids. Mean length 0.5-1.3 mm.