Myricaceae

MYRICA

Vessels small (mean tangential diameter less than 100 μ) and often very small (25-50 μ) e.g. in M. cerifera Linn and M. gale Linn; typically exclusively solitary, but with few to numerous radial multiples in M. gale; usually 35-60 per sq. mm. but sometimes more than 100 e.g. in M. cerifera, ring-porous or nearly so in some temperate spp. e.g. in M. gale, and often with very few vessels in the late wood or this sp. Perforation plates all scalariform and typically with fewer than 15 bars in some spp. e.g. M. cerifera, m. faya Ait, M. gale, M. integrifolia Roxb, M. javanica Bl., M. mexicana Humb. et Bonpl. ex Willd, and M. nagi Thunb (sometimes with up to 30 bars); with both simple and scalariform plates in others. Intervascular pitting usually opposite, e.g. in M. nagi, and alternate in M. gale. Pits to ray and wood parenchyma small and round, similar in size to the opposite intervascular pitting. Mean member length 0.6-0.95 mm.

Parenchyma apotracheal, as cells scattered among the fibres and sometimes in contact with the vessels; tending to form uniseriate lines in M. gale. Strands of 4-8 cells. Crystals reported in a few specimens.

Rays almost wholly uniseriate in M. gale, usually up to about 4 cells wide, in other spp. but up to 8 cells in some specimens of M. nagi, usually less than 1 mm. high, hut higher in M. nagi; uniseriates numerous, composed entirely of square to upright cells in some spp. e.g. M. gale, M. javanica, and M. nagi, composed of mixed upright and procumbent cells in others, e.g. M. cerifera; 8-20 rays per mm. multiseriate rays heterogeneous (Kribs's Types II A and B) commonly with 4 or more marginal rows of upright cells; sometimes with sheath cells; solitary crystals occasionally present.

Fibres typically with numerous, distinctly bordered pits on all walls, but pits less numerous and borders small in M. gale. Walls thin except in M. gale. Mean length about 1.0-1.4 mm.