

MYRTUS

Vessels typically small (less than 100 μ mean tangential diameter), very small (less than 50 μ) in some spp., and medium sized (100-200 μ) in *M. exaltata* M.F. Bailey. Typically exclusively solitary, but with occasional to numerous multiples of 2-3 cells in some spp. Occasional tendency to oblique lines locally. Vessels sometimes absent from zones separating the growth-rings. Often very numerous and crowded in woods with small vessels. 40-100 per sq. mm. Perforation plates simple, except in *M. communis* L. in which they are exclusively scalariform with about 15-25 bars. Intervascular pitting opposite or intermediate in *M. communis* L. Vestured Pits to wood parenchyma often rare owing to presence of vasicentric tracheids, pits to ray cells usually similar to intervascular pitting where this is small. Mean member length 0.3-0.8 mm.

Parenchyma of 2 intergrading types a) predominantly apotracheal as scattered cells or irregular uniseriate bands in most of the genera with solitary vessels (fig. 140 K) and b) predominantly paratracheal in the genera in which vessel multiples are relatively common. Predominantly apotracheal in *Myrtus*. Diffuse and paratracheal parenchyma often abundant and sometimes tending to form fairly broad bands of indeterminate type and often with large wings from the vessels in *M. exaltata*. Terminal bands sometimes present. Strands of usually up to 8 cells.

Rays occasionally with suggestion of being of 2 distinct sizes. Typically up to 2-3 cells wide, or 4-6 cells wide in some spp. Less than 1 mm. high except in some spp. with more than 10 marginal rows of upright cells. Uniseriates numerous, typically composed of square cells upright cells only, except in woods with homogeneous rays, and often only 1-2 cells high. Mostly 13-20 rays per mm. Typically heterogeneous (Kribs's Types II A and B), with 4-10 marginal rows of upright cells.

Fibres typically with bordered pits, the pits varying from rather few to very numerous, usually equally distributed on both radial and tangential walls, but sometimes more numerous on the latter. Rarely more numerous on radial walls. Walls moderately to very thick. Mean length 0.7-2.0 mm.