

NITRARIA

Vessels very small to moderately small (50-100 μ); solitary, with a radial or oblique pattern; varying in number from between 5 per mm. to 70 per mm. Perforations exclusively simple. Intervascular pitting alternate, very small and numerous; pits to ray cells similar to the intervacular pitting. Vessels commonly filled with gummy or resinous deposits. Mean member length 0.7-0.2 mm.

Parenchyma almost entirely paratracheal; apparently terminal bands sometimes present. Storied, usually with 8-11 stories per mm. Fusiform cells very common, and sometimes almost the only type of parenchyma present, apart from crystalliferous strands. Crystals present. Markedly disjunctive and with conspicuously grouped pits.

Rays up to 3-4 cells wide and 30 cells high.

Fibres with pits with moderately distinct to indistinct borders. Heimsch states that the fibrous elements are in most cases tracheids and seldom fibre-tracheids. Storied. Walls thick. Mean length 0.35-0.6 mm.

Vasicentric tracheids typically present.

Nitraria retusa (Forsk.) Asch.

Diffuse-porous. Pores mostly solitary and in short radial multiples; aligned in distinct radial bands; small, maximum tangential diameter 95 μ ; numerous and crowded within the pattern. Vessels with simple perforations; pits alternate, small in size. Wood parenchyma vasicentric and in narrow undulating concentric bands that bridge the rays; numerous within the radial pore pattern. Rays weakly heterogenous, both procumbent and square cells in irregular arrangement as seen on the tangential section; 1 to 3 cells wide; less than 25 cells high; ray-vessel pitting fine, short oval in outline. Fibres with simple or indistinctly bordered pits. Vasicentric tracheids present. Gum-like deposits in heartwood vessels, red-brown in colour. (Ilanoth Specimen No. 27)