

RETAMA

Papilionaceae

Vessels medium-sized (100-200 μ mean tangential diameter). In woods without any definite radial pattern radial multiples are usually moderately abundant, but do not commonly exceed 3 cells. In woods with oblique or tangential pattern the larger vessels may themselves be small and be set in a matrix of extremely small, angular, storied vessels. Irregular clusters of vessels common. Apart from woods with very numerous vessels in oblique or tangential rows, most species have either fewer than 5 vessels per sq. mm or between 20 and 40 per sq. mm. Diffuse porous. No spiral thickening? Perforations simple. Intervascular pitting alternate, typically small. Mean member length 0.1-0.4 mm.

Parenchyma normally moderately to very abundant and either predominantly paratracheal or in moderately regular bands that tend to be replaced by definitely para-tracheal forms, where the parenchyma is less abundant. Round or diamond-shaped sheaths less common than confluent or other banded types. Confluent, forming irregular bands or the matrix for oblique or tangential bands of vessels in Retama. Chambered crystals present in marginal cells of paratracheal or banded parenchyma strands most commonly of 1-2, or only 1 cell.

Rays may be 2-3 cells wide, but in most species exclusively uniseriate or with only occasional biseriate rays. Mostly from 4-12 rays per mm. Moderately heterogeneous (Kribs Type II and occasionally III) with 1-2 marginal rows of square or upright cells. Usually storied in woods with low rays.

Fibres typically with few, small, simple pits, more numerous on radial than on tangential walls. Walls moderately to very thick. Mean length 0.6-1.7 mm.