

BUXUS

Vessels typically very small (mean tangential diameter 25-50 μ) to extremely small (less than 25 μ); exclusively solitary, apart from tangential pairs due to overlapping ends; typically about 200 per sq. mm. or more. Perforation plates exclusively scalariform except for rare simple perforations reported in *Buxus*, the plates usually with fewer than 20 bars (Inst. slide mostly about 10), but commonly with 30 or more in *B. subcolumnaris* of the section *Tricera*; the bars not exceeding 15 in spp. of *Buxus* belonging to section *Enbuxus*; occasionally foraminite e.g. in *Natobuxus acuminata*. Intervascular pitting rare, typically opposite and small to minute. Pits to wood and ray parenchyma similar to the intervascular pitting. Mean member length usually about 0.5-0.6 mm.

Parenchyma apotracheal, typically as isolated cells scattered among the fibres, tending to be associated with the vessels in some specimens of *Buxus*, particularly of *B. sempervirens* (fig. 297 F). Strands of 2-8, mostly 4 cells.

Rays typically 2 cells wide; typically low; uniseriate numerous (Inst. slide nearly biseriate), usually composed of square to upright cells only, but of mixed procumbent and upright cells in *B. macowani*. 12-19 rays per mm. Fairly markedly heterogeneous (Kribs's Type II A), with 1-4 marginal rows of upright cells, but homogeneous (Kribs's Type I) in *B. macowani*.

Fibres with bordered pits, the borders small and sometimes rather indistinct. Pits equally numerous on radial and tangential walls. Walls thick. Mean length usually 0.6-0.9 mm.