

CASSIA

Caesalpinaceae

Vessels typically medium-sized (100-200 μ mean tangential diameter); large (more than 200) in some species, typically solitary with a few multiples of 2 or 3 cells and some irregular clusters; these clusters, usually of small cells, not always present in every section, but a tendency to produce them locally appears to be characteristic of most of the genera; mostly between 1.5 and 5 per mm; no spiral thickening. Perforations simple. Intervascular pitting alternate, small; pits to parenchyma and ray cells similar to intervacular pits. Pits vestured. Solid deposits present in nearly all species. Tyloses rare. Mean member length 0.2-0.5 mm.

Parenchyma usually moderately abundant and predominantly paratracheal; most typically as a sheath, several cells wide, about the vessels, round, diamond-shaped or distinctly aliform in cross-section and often locally confluent where the vessels are close together; with considerable variation within these limits in different parts of the ring and in different specimens; predominantly aliform and most typically diamond-shaped in some species and in irregular confluent bands that are difficult to classify in yet others. ^{to 4 cells, & intermediates between these two in others, & in some, regular bands} Strands most commonly of 2-4 cells.

Rays mostly 2-3 cells wide, exclusively uniseriate or with only a few biseriate rays in some species; woods with multiseriate rays often with few uniseriates, but genera with moderately numerous uniseriates fairly common, e.g. Cassia; mostly from 4-12 rays per mm; homogeneous (Kribs Types I, II and III); procumbent cells small in tangential diameter (less than 10 μ). Without any distinct tendency to arrangement in echelon or stories.

Fibres with few, small, simple pits more numerous on radial than on tangential walls. Septate. Walls usually moderately to very thick. Mean length 0.7-1.4 mm.