Lauraceae

LAURUS

Vessels mostly medium-sized (100-200 μ mean tangential diameter) but sometimes small (less than 100 μ) in Laurus. Solitary and in numerous small multiples. Multiples of 4 or more cells sometimes moderatly common in some spp. 3-40, mostly 5-12 per square mm. Perforations typically simple, but sporadic scalariform plates are of moderatly common occurrence. Intervascular pitting alternate, typically large; occasionally striated owing to coalescent apertures. Pits to ray and wood parenchyma typically including many large, elongated and simple or only partically bordered pits, often almost scalariform (fig. 277 I) and sometimes unilaterally compound (fig. 277 K) but with only small round pits similar to the intervascular pitting in Laurus. Mean member length 0.35-0.8 mm.

Parenchyma paratracheal, typically as an irregular and often incomplete sheath round each vessel. May also be diffuse parenchyma, but this is dubious. Strands usually of 2-4 cells.

Rays typically 2-3 cells wide, and less than 1 mm high. Uniseriates typically very few and low and composed of mixed upright and procumbent cells - 4-11, mostly 5-7 rays per mm. Typically rather weakly heterogeneous (Kribs's Type II B), with 1 marginal row of square cells. Oil or mucilage cells

Fibres typically with simple pits that are more numerous in the radial than the tangential walls. Occasional septate fibres may occur. Walls usually moderately thick and sometimes very thick. Mean length 0.7-1.6 mm, mostly 0.1-1.4 mm.

Laurus nobilis L.
Diffuse-porous. Pores solitary and in short radial multiples of 2 to 6; pores small, maximum tangential diameter 90 μ; numerous but not crowded. Vessels with simple perforations; pits alternate, medium sized. Wood parenchyma sparingly paratracheal. Rays heterogeneous, square and upright cells both in the margins and interspersed with the procumbent cells; 2 to 3 cells wide; up to 40 cells high; ray-vessel pitting medium sized, short oval in outline. Fibres with simple pits. Oil cells present in the wood rays. Crystals in both upright and procumbent ray cells. (Ilanoth Specimen No. 39)