

NERIUM

Vessels typically small (less than 100 μ mean tangential diameter) and often very small (25-50 μ); typically with numerous multiples often of 4 or more cells, and sometimes with a few clusters, very variable in number, mostly 10-50 per sq. mm. Spiral thickening not observed. Perforations simple and typically small in relation to the diameter of the vessels and with wide rims. Intervascular pitting and wood parenchyma similar. Contents rare. Mean member length 0.3-1.0 (mostly 0.5-0.7) mm.

Parenchyma predominantly apotracheal in most genera but predominantly paratracheal in some and absent from others. The apotracheal parenchyma most commonly as scattered cells, or short irregular uniseriate lines. Chambered crystalliferous cells present in many genera but seldom abundant. Strands typically up to 8 cells.

Rays in genera without septate fibres (e.g. Nerium) typically up to 2-3 cells wide. Rays typically rather short, distinctly less than 1 mm. high and often less than 0.5 mm. Uniseriate rays moderately numerous and usually composed entirely of upright cells, except in woods with uniseriate rays only .8-23 rays per mm. Heterogeneous (Kribs's Types II A and III) usually with 4-10 marginal rows of square or upright cells. Walls often rounded in tangential section, with conspicuous intercellular spaces.

Fibres not septate, typically with bordered pits, more numerous on the radial than on the tangential walls. Walls typically thin to moderately thin. Mean length 0.6-1.6 mm., mostly 1.0-1.3 mm.

Latex tubes present in the rays of Nerium.