

PRUNUS

Vessels typically small (mean tangential diameter less than $100\ \mu$) often very small ($25-50\ \mu$); with radial and oblique arrangement on pore multiples of 4 or over (fig. 120 I), and producing a flame-like pattern in *P. ilicifolia*; typically very numerous (40 per sq. mm.). Ring-porous or semi-ring-porous in some spp. Spiral thickening is present in most spp. Perforations usually exclusively simple. Intervascular pitting typically alternate, never large. Pits to ray cells similar to intervacular pits. The sieve-like structures are probably artefacts and not vestured pits. Tyloses rare. Mean member length of mature material about 0.4-0.95 mm. If small stems are included range is about 0.19-0.76 with mean of 0.487 mm.

Parenchyma usually apotracheal only, in scattered cells or short uniseriate lines from ray to ray (as in *Raphiolepis* fig. 120 K); very sparse, with occasional scanty paratracheal and diffuse cells (as in *Spiraea* fig. 120 J). Strands usually of 4 cells, occasionally up to 5 or 6.

Rays multiseriate, mostly 2-5 cells wide, up to 6-10 in some spp. of *Prunus*, sometimes of 2 distinct widths. Uniseriates moderately numerous and composed of both procumbent and upright cells. Typically 9-15 rays per mm. Heterogeneous (Kribs's Type II B), with 1 or 2 marginal rows of square or upright cells.

Fibres with numerous distinctly bordered pits, equally numerous on both tangential and radial walls. Very fine septa and gum plates occur in occasional fibres. Walls thin to thick often radially flattened and with thicker walls towards the end of the growth ring. Mean length 0.9-1.6 mm.

Taxonomic Note: From wood structure the Prunoideae is the only tribe that can be distinguished from the others. It is characterised by 1) fibres with less distinctly bordered pits, which are less numerous on the tangential than on the radial walls, and frequent plates of gum or fine septa, and 2) vessels that are commonly arranged in an oblique or radial pattern on the cross-section and often in multiples.

Prunus and Laurocerasus

In *Prunus* the rays are more homogeneous, the marginal

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rows seldom being more than 1-3 and their cells square rather than upright, the parenchyma is diffuse only and often very sparse; some spp. have an oblique vessel pattern, but this is less definite and more nearly tangential than in the extreme form of *Laurocerasus*. Examples of the tendency for the 2 groups to overlap are provided by the following spp. *Laurocerasus maackii* (Rupr.) C.K. Schn. which has the structure typical of a *Prunus*, and in *P. annularis* (Koehne) which might be a typical *Laurocerasus*.