

Transverse Section Microscopy of Vasaka

Experiment 27 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To study a transverse section of the assigned vasaka leaf and record diagnostic tissues.

Principle

A thin transverse section reveals how protective, conducting, supporting, storage and secretory tissues are arranged. A dorsiventral leaf shows epidermis, palisade and spongy mesophyll, a midrib vascular region, hairs and characteristic cystolith-containing cells.

Identity and Drawing Guide

Field	Guide
Botanical source	Justicia adhatoda (synonym Adhatoda vasica)
Family	Acanthaceae
Part	Leaf
Labels to include	Label epidermis, palisade, spongy tissue, midrib vessels, hairs and cystoliths.

Requirements

- Authenticated prepared section or teacher-assigned sectioning material
- Compound microscope, slides, coverslips and approved mountant/stains
- Pencil and labelled drawing sheet

Procedure

1. Verify material

Record botanical source, part, specimen treatment and section level.

2. Prepare or select slide

Use the assigned thin section or prepared slide; select an intact representative region.

3. Survey at low power

Identify the tissue outline and major regions before increasing magnification.

4. Examine diagnostic details

Locate supporting and secretory features. Cystolith-bearing cells and the assigned leaf anatomy support identification.

Pharmacognosy

5. Draw and label

Label epidermis, palisade, spongy tissue, midrib vessels, hairs and cystoliths.

6. Compare

Compare with authenticated material and write which observed features support identity.

Observations and Record

Feature	Actual observation / drawing label
Outer protective region	_____
Ground / storage tissue	_____
Vascular arrangement	_____
Diagnostic structure	_____
Magnification / scale	_____

Result

Diagnostic tissues observed: _____. The section _____ supports the assigned identity because _____.

Precautions

- A cystolith is a mineral deposit in a specialised cell, not a starch grain.
- Use prepared slides for toxic material and avoid direct exposure to powders.
- Do not mistake folds, air bubbles or stain deposits for diagnostic structures.
- Start with low power and record magnification.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. What is a transverse section?

A section cut across the long axis or specified plane of the material.

2. Why is tissue arrangement important?

The pattern helps distinguish plant parts and authentic materials.

3. Which feature is especially useful here?

Cystolith-bearing cells and the assigned leaf anatomy support identification.

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