

Mentha × piperita* L.*Peppermint Leaf***Menthae piperitae Folium***Sanskrit: Pudina***Lamiaceae*

Peppermint has been used for centuries as a beverage, in food products, and in perfumeries. It is one of the most popular of all herbal teas and is used medicinally for its diaphoretic and carminative properties. The wide variety of mints on the commercial market may get confused with each other, though the universal familiarity of peppermint greatly reduces the chances for adulteration.

Surface view: The upper epidermis consists of cells with sinuous anticlinal walls and diacytic stomata approximately 35–45 μm long and in varying frequency; uniseriate covering trichomes up to approximately 700 μm long, with cuticular striations; acute unicellular papillae are rare; two types of glandular trichomes occur: (1) multicellular

glandular scales consisting of a short stalk and, usually, eight secretory cells (diameter including the detached cuticle is approximately 70–90 μm); (2) short glandular trichomes, up to 40 μm long, with a unicellular stalk and a uni- or bicellular head. The lower epidermis is similar to the upper epidermis, but with smaller cells and more frequent stomata; the leaf margin has infrequent unicellular or short uniseriate covering trichomes.

Transverse section: Bifacial; palisade cells occur primarily in a single layer; epidermis is slightly papillous.

Powder: Fragments of epidermis, often with diacytic stomata and the short glandular trichomes; uniseriate covering trichomes; numerous glandular scales.

