

Ligustrum lucidum* W. T. Aiton*Ligustrum Fruit*****Ligustri Fructus*****Pinyin: Nu chen zi*****Oleaceae***

Ligustrum fruits are predominantly used in traditional Chinese medicine as a kidney tonic. They are also used for their ability to support immune function—specifically, to reduce side effects associated with conventional cancer therapies.

A. Fruit

Surface view: Exocarp of polygonal cells—groups of three or four cells surrounded by heavily thickened walls; within groups, the cells are separated by thin walls.

Transverse section: Exocarp papillose with a thick cuticle; lumen of exocarp cells is radially elongated; groups of exocarp cells are separated by furrows; mesocarp of

parenchymatous cells and vascular bundles; endocarp is a fibrous ring with most fibers oriented in longitudinal direction, although small groups run diagonally, giving a parquetry arrangement; sclereids are embedded among the fibers very rarely.

B. Seed

Surface view: Conspicuous, dark brown testa characterized by thin-walled parenchyma and thicker walled large oil cells up to 80 μm diameter.

Transverse section: Testa of alternating thin-walled cells and thicker walled large oil cells; endosperm of thin-walled cells contains oil droplets.

Powder: Fragments of exocarp; testa with oil cells; endosperm with oil droplets; fibers in a parquetry arrangement; occasional sclereid and vascular tissue.

