

2 Abaca plants are found in the Philippines.

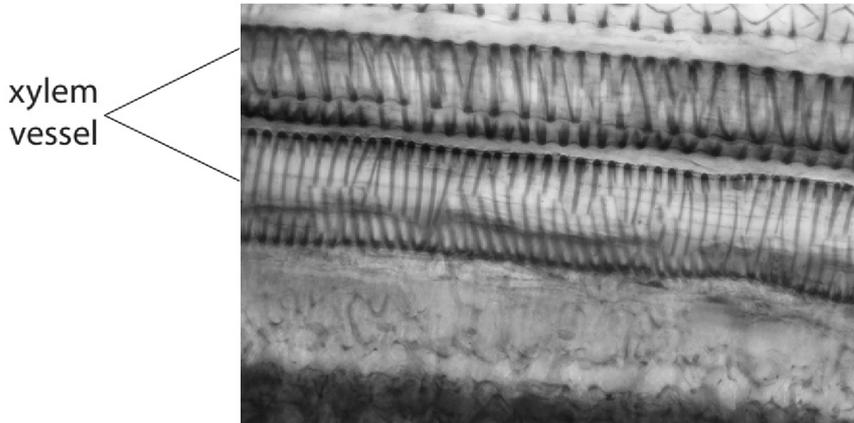
The photograph shows a mat made from abaca plant fibres.



(Source: © Mehmet Çetin / Alamy Stock Photo)

Plant fibres include xylem vessels.

(a) The photograph shows some xylem vessels, as seen using a light microscope.



(Source: © STEVE GSCHEISSNER / SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY)

A stain was added to the xylem before viewing using a microscope.

Give a reason why it is usual to stain specimens in microscopy.

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