

DROSERACEAE

Drosera burmanni Vahl

Common / Local names: Surya Shisir (Bengali); Sundew, Burmann's Sundew (English); Mukhajali (Hindi); Krimibamdha (Kannada); Davabindu (Marathi).



Drosera burmanni Vahl

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

Description: Annual or biannual herbs, up to 10 cm long; stems very short with few fibrous roots, insectivorous. Leaves radical, rosulate, 0.5 – 1 x 0.3 – 0.6 cm, obovate-orbicular, spatulate, abruptly narrowed into a flat petiole, reddish-green, densely covered with glandular tentacles above, tentacles elongate with rounded tip, base attenuate or subtruncate-obtuse, apex fimbriate; petioles short or absent; stipules 3 - 7 mm long, 3 - parted, adnate with petiole at base, scarious. Inflorescence scapiform, erect, 5 – 20 cm long, with secund-subsecund

flowers restricted towards apex, glabrous or with white to reddish glands; bracts hastate, trilobed, glandular, outside hairy; pedicels erect, 1-7 mm. Sepals 5, united at base, 2 – 3 mm, elliptic, narrow oblong to broadly lanceolate, acute, striate, tuberculate, abaxial surface with short glandular hairs and white glands. Petals 5, c. 4 x 2-3 mm, obovate to oblong-lanceolate, pinkish to whitish. Stamens 5, c. 3 mm long, hypogynous or scarcely perigynous. Ovary superior, subglobose, glabrous, 3-chambered, 2 ovules in each locule, placentas 5 (or 6); styles 5 (or 6), filiform, 2-3 mm long, incurved; stigma tooth like. Capsules c. 6 x 4 mm, ovoid, 5-6-valved. Seeds numerous, ellipsoid, dark-brown to black, veined.

Fl. & Fr.: Throughout the year.

Habitat: On moist or exposed sandy soils, in shaded places, nearby rice fields, lowland to mountain areas.

Pollen: 31 μ in diameter, distal and ventral surface with thick exine and thin intine, almost psilate or subechinate and exine shows a fine saw-like contour [Venkatasubban, Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. B 31(6): 308-330. 1950].

Chromosome: n = 10 (Venkatasubban, 1950).

Distribution: Throughout India. Rare in the wild.

Propagation: The species can be propagated by seeds only in moist soil with pit and sand ratio 1:1. It flowers in four months or less if fed regularly. The plant prefers much light.

Notes: *Drosera burmanni* Vahl differs from *D. indica* L. and *D. peltata* Thunb. by having very short stem with leaves basal in a dense rosette. The plant is used medicinally. It is also a red listed medicinal insectivorous plant in Andhra Pradesh [Jayaraman & Prasad, Curr. Sci. 19(7): 943-946. 2006].

All species of sundew are able to move their tentacles in response to contact with digestible prey. The tentacles are extremely sensitive and bend toward the center of the leaf to bring the insect into contact with as many stalked glands as possible. The outer tentacles (recently coined as "snap-tentacles") of *D. burmanni* and can bend inwards toward prey in a matter of seconds after contact.