

DROSERACEAE

Drosera indica L.

Common / Local Names: Flycatcher, Sundew, Dew plant, Indian Sundew (English); Kandulessa (Hindi); Gawatidavbindu (Marathi).



Drosera indica L.

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

Description: Annual herbs, 5-50 cm long, erect, older ones scrambling, unbranched, glandular hairy, yellow-green to maroon in color, with fibrous roots. Leaves cauline, alternate, sparse, lower leaves recurved, upper leaves erect, linear, 30-60 x 1-3 mm, pubescent or glabrous, light green to red; petioles 5-10 mm, glabrous; stipules absent or reduced and hair like. Inflorescence axillary or leaf opposed, glandular; raceme 1-30 flowered; peduncle to 12 cm long; bracts linear, 6-8 mm long; pedicels 0.6-1.5 mm long.

Sepals 5, united near base, 3-5 x 1-2 mm, lanceolate to narrowly oblong, glandular. Petals 5, 5-10 x 3-4 mm, obovate to oblanceolate, pink, orange, reddish-violate, white. Stamens 5, 3-5 mm long, papillose. Ovary obovate or subglobose, 1-2 mm across; placentas 3; styles 3, deeply 2-parted near to base, usually incurved; stigma simple, 2-3 mm long. Capsules globose-obvoid, 3-valved. Seeds, obovoid, strongly ridged black.

Fl. & Fr.: September – November.

Habitat: It is commonly found growing in wet shallow and poor nutrient soils, overlaying rocks and in wet muds, in swamps, marshes, pools and streams, and in open humid soils.

Pollen: 37 μ in diameter, exine echinate [Venkatasubban, Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. B 31(6): 308-330. 1950].

Chromosome: n = 14 (Venkatasubban, 1950)

Distribution: India - Occur in Deccan Peninsula up to Chotanagpur of Jharkhand. Recently also reported from Birbhum district of West Bengal.

Notes: *D. indica L.* is a red listed medicinal insectivorous plant In Andhra Pradesh (Jayaraman & Prasad, Curr. Sci. 19(7): 943-946. 2006).

Propagation: The species can be grown by seeds. The seeds sprout with the onset of the summer. It requires very warm and bright conditions to do well. The plants bloom and then die as the ground dries out. *Drosera indica* never reproduces from root or leaf cuttings.