

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia babui S.R. Yadav, Sardesai & S.P. Gaikwad

Description: Perennial herbs; rhizoids numerous, up to 5 cm long, glandular, branched; stolons 3-15 cm long, profusely branched, mat forming. Leaves 0.4-6 x 0.1-0.3 cm, linear-filiform, 1 or 4-5 at the base of peduncle and scattered along stolons, 1-nerved, acute or acuminate at apex; traps 1-2 mm across, those



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Photo Coutesy: S.R. Yadav

on leaves large and elsewhere small, subglobose; stalk upto 0.5 mm long; mouth basal; appendages subulate, simple; glandular hairy. Racemes erect, rarely twining, 6-20 cm long, angular, grooved on one side, glabrous, 2-6-flowered; scales basifixed, 1.5-2.8 x 0.6-0.7 mm, 1-nerved, acute or 2-3-dentate at apex; bracts basifixed, 2.2-2.5 x 0.6-1.2 mm, 3-nerved, acute at apex; bracteoles 2.0-2.2 x 0.2 mm, basifixed, subulate, 1-nerved, acute; pedicels ascending, slender,

2-8 mm long, erect at anthesis as well as in fruit. Calyx lobes unequal; upper lobe 1.8-5.5 x 2-3.5 mm (2.3-6.5 x 2.3-4 mm in fruit), ovate, acute or 2-3 dentate at apex; lower lobe 2.2-5.5 x 2-3.5 mm (3.3-6.5 x 3.2-3.5 mm in fruit), ovate-elliptic, acute or 2-3 dentate at apex. Corolla blue-purple-pink; upper lip 4-6 x 2.5-3.5 mm, oblong, truncate, rounded or emarginate, slightly narrowed below; lower lip 3.5-7 x 2.5-7 mm, obovate, broadly circular, bigibbous at base, rounded or retuse at apex; spur 4-6.5 mm long, conical, slightly projecting upwards. Stamens 2, 1.5-2 mm long; filaments strap shaped, slightly curved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil 2-2.5 mm long, dorsally compressed; style short, distinct, flat; stigma 2-lipped, truncate at apex. Capsules 5-6 x 2.2-2.5 mm, ellipsoid, pouched at abaxial side, thickened along the dehiscent margins, dehiscent by ventral longitudinal slit. Seeds ovoid-globose, 0.35-0.4 mm in diameter; testa reticulate, testa cells narrowly elongated, compact.

Fl. & Fr.: Peak flowering from October - February extending up to April.

Habitat: It grows at an altitude of about 700-900 m in and along small streams in open places in the forests of Kolhapur district (Suleran, Ajra and Amba).

Etymology: This species is named after Professor C. R. Babu, Department of Botany, University of Delhi to honour his significant contributions in the field of Angiosperm Systematics and Ecology.

Distribution: India - Western Ghats: Kolhapur district (Suleran, Ajra and Amba).

Note: This species is a slender bladderwort closely allied to *U. graminifolia* Vahl but differs from it in having 1 nerved, linear-filiform leaves.

Reference:

S.R. Yadav, M.M. Sardesai & S.P. Gaikwad. 2005. A new species of *Utricularia* L. (Lentibulariaceae) from the Western Ghats, India. *Rheedea* 15(1): 71-73.