

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia foveolata Edgew. [= *Utricularia scandens* Oliv.; *U. baouleensis* A. Chev.]



Utricularia foveolata Edgew.

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 4 mm long, c 0.1 mm thick, capillary, branches papillose; stolons up to 5 cm long, c 0.1 mm thick, capillary, branched. Foliar organs up to 3 cm long, linear, 1-nerved, scattered on stolons, acute or rounded at apex. Traps 0.8-1.2 mm across, globose on vegetative organs; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate, branched. Racemes up to 30 cm long, filiform, twining, 1-5-flowered; scales c 0.5 x 0.5 mm, basifixed, ovate to oblong, obtuse to shortly acuminate at apex; bracteoles c 0.5 mm long, linear-lanceate, acute at apex; flowers c 2 mm long; pedicels up to 3.5 mm long, slightly winged, erect at anthesis and recurved in fruit. Calyx-lobes unequal, ovate, obtuse to subacute at apex; upper lobe c 1.5 x 1.4 mm (2.5-3.3 x 1.7-2 mm in fruit); lower lobe c 1.8 x 1.1 mm (2.1-2.7 x 1.5-2.1 mm in fruit). Corolla pale blue or mauve; upper lip c 1 x 0.8 mm, oblong, truncate at apex; lower lip c 1.2 x 1 mm, ovate to orbicular, gibbous at base, rounded or obscurely 3-crenate at apex; spur 1 mm long, conical, acute at apex. Stamens c 0.8 mm long; filaments linear, straight; anther thecae subdistinct. Pistil c 1 mm long; ovary ovoid; style short, distinct; stigma 2-lipped, lower lip orbicular, upper lip smaller or obsolete. Capsules c 2 x 1.5 mm, ovoid, dorsiventrally compressed, dehisce ventrally by a marginally thickened vertical slit; placenta c 1.1 x 0.9 mm, ovoid, smooth. Seeds 0.2-0.35 mm, ellipsoid; hilum terminal;

testa reticulate, cells elongated, striated within.

Fl. & Fr.: September.

Habitat: Along marshy places, twining on other *Utricularias* and grasses.

Chromosomes: $n = 10$ (Subramanyam & Kamble, 1968).

Pollen: 4-colporate, $24 \times 28 \mu$ (Huynh, 1968); 4- or 5-colporate, $21 \times 25 \mu$ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: **India** - Distributed in Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Tropical Africa to Australia, through India and China.

Notes: Taylor (1989) treats *U. baouleensis* A. Chev. and *U. foveolata* Edgew. conspecific after neotypification of the latter. This species is not well represented in Indian herbaria. Except few old collections cited below, no other recent collections are present in the herbaria consulted. This may be due to its smaller flowers and twining nature on grasses which reduce the chance of spotting in the field.

References:

- Huynh, K.L. 1968. Etude de morphologic du pollen genre *Utricularia* L. *Pollen et Spores* 10: 11-55.
 Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 53-55.
 Subramanyam, K. & Kambale, N.P. 1968. Chromosome numbers in certain Indian species of *Utricularia* L. (Lentibulariaceae). *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* 68B: 221-224.
 Taylor, P. 1989. The genus *Utricularia* – a taxonomic monograph. *Kew Bull. Add. Ser.* 14: 1-724.