

## LENTIBULARIACEAE

### *Utricularia malabarica* Janarth. & A.N. Henry



*Utricularia malabarica* M.K. Janarthanam  
& A.N. Henry  
Courtesy: S.R. Yadav & N.V. Malpure

**Description:** Herbs; rhizoids usually absent, if present up to 1 cm long, c 0.2 mm thick at base, glandular, branches up to 0.8 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 2 cm long, c 0.2 mm thick, profusely branched. Foliar organs up to 4 x 1.5 mm, obovate to oblanceate, 3-nerved, rounded at apex. Traps up to 1.5 mm across, globose; stalk glandular; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate, simple, glandular. Racemes 2-6.5 cm long, c 0.6 mm thick, erect, glabrous, angular, grooved on one side, 1-4-flowered; scales c 1.1 x 0.9 mm, basifixed, ovate-deltoid, acute to acuminate at apex; bracts c 1.5 x 0.9 mm, obovate to deltoid, acuminate at apex; bracteoles shorter than bracts, subulate; pedicels 3-4 mm long, winged, erect in anthesis, recurved in fruit. Calyx-lobes c 2 x 2 mm (c 3 x 3 mm in fruit), ovate, papillose without; upper lobe acuminate at apex; lower bidentate at apex. Corolla blue with white tinge; upper lip c 2.5 x 1.5 mm, oblong, truncate or emarginate at apex, lower c 4 x 5 mm, suborbicular, hairy in throat, bigibbous at base, emarginate at apex; spur c 4.5 mm long, slender, acute at apex. Stamens c 1 mm long; filaments strap-shaped; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1 mm long; ovary ovoid; style short; stigma 2-lipped, lower lip oblong and hairy, upper lip short and

semi-orbicular. Capsules c 2.8 x 1.8 mm, ovoid to subglobose, uniformly membranous; placenta c 1 mm across, ovoid. Seeds c 0.25 mm long, ovoid; hilum prominent, subterminal; testa reticulate, smooth, cells more or less elongate.

**Fl. & Fr.:** August.

**Habitat:** A small, annual on wet laterite rocks, in association with Eriocaulons and grasses.

**Distribution:** India - Endemic to Kasaragod district of Kerala, India.

**Notes:** Known only from the type collection. The earlier collectors perhaps missed this species due to its habitat - the wet barren laterite rocks with very little vegetation, and its ephemeral nature as rocks dry immediately after the rains.

*Utricularia malabarica* Janarth. & A.N. Henry is allied to *U. lazulina* P. Taylor, but can be differentiated by its shorter inflorescence, equal, papillose calyx-lobes, glabrous lower margin of upper corolla lip, hairy lower lip of stigma, recurved fruiting pedicel, and smooth testa cells.

#### **Reference:**

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 69-71.