

LENTIBULARIACEAE

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

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 1.5 cm long, glandular, branched; stolons 3-5 cm long, branched. Leaves 0.4-10 mm long, 1-3.5 mm wide, spatulate, 1 or 4-5 at the base of peduncle and also scattered along stolons, 3-nerved, nerves branched further, rounded at apex. Traps 1-2 mm across, those on leaves large and elsewhere small, subglobose; stalk up to 0.5 mm long; mouth basal; appendages subulate, simple, glandular hairy. Racemes up to 6 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 0.6-0.7 mm; 1-nerved, acute or 2-3 dentate at apex; pedicels 2-3 mm long, erect at anthesis and deflexed in fruit. Calyx lobes unequal; upper lobe 1.8-2 x 1-1.2 mm (2.3-2.6 x 1.8-2.1 mm in fruit), ovate, acute or 2-3 dentate at apex; lower lobe 2.2-2.5 x 1-1.3 mm (3.3-3.5 x 2.2-2.4 mm in fruit), ovate-elliptic, acute or 2-3 dentate at apex. Corolla lilac or faint rose coloured, papillose; upper lip 0.8-1 x 0.8-0.9 mm, oblong-truncate; lower lip 1-1.3 x 0.8-1 mm, oblong, acute at apex, enrolled along margins, gibbous at base; spur 0.5-1 mm long, conical, slightly projecting upwards. Stamens 2, 0.9-1 mm long; filaments strap-shaped, slightly curved; anther-thecae distinct. Pistil 0.8-0.9 mm long, dorsally compressed; style short, distinct, flat; stigma 2-lipped, truncate at apex. Capsules c. 2.5 x 2.2 mm, obliquely ovoid, wall uniformly



Utricularia naikii Yadav, Sardesai et Gaikwad
Photo Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

membranous, dehiscent by ventral longitudinal slit, puffed at abaxial side. Seeds ovoid-globose, 0.4 mm across, testa cells more or less isodiametric.

Fl. & Fr.: September - November.

Habitat: This minute slender bladderwort grows at an altitudes 850-1000 m in muddy places amidst grasses along small streams. *Utricularia albocaerulea* Dalzell, *U. praeterita* P. Taylor, *Eriocaulon sharmae* R. Ansari, *Cryptocoryne spiralis* Wydler var. *cognatoides* S.R. Yadav, Patil & Bogner and *Geissaspis cristata* Wight & Arn. are some of the common associates. It appears that the species is cleistogamous and reproduces by selfing.

Distribution: India - Bhattwadi, Burki, Patgaon and Rangana in Kolhapur district, and Amboli and Choukul in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

Etymology: This species is named after Dr. V.N. Naik, Dr. B.A. Marathwada University, Aurangabad, who has made valuable contribution to angiosperm systematics.

Note: Absence of bracteoles, unequal calyx lobes, peculiar minute corolla (probably never opening) which is included in calyx lobes and obliquely ovoid fruit which dehisces by only ventral longitudinal slit distinguishes *U. naikii* from *U. nayarii* Janarth. & A.N. Henry.

Reference: S.R. Yadav, M.M. Sardesai & S.P. Gaikwad. 2000. Two new species of *Utricularia* L. (Lentibulariaceae) from Peninsular India. *Rheedea* 10(2): 107-112.