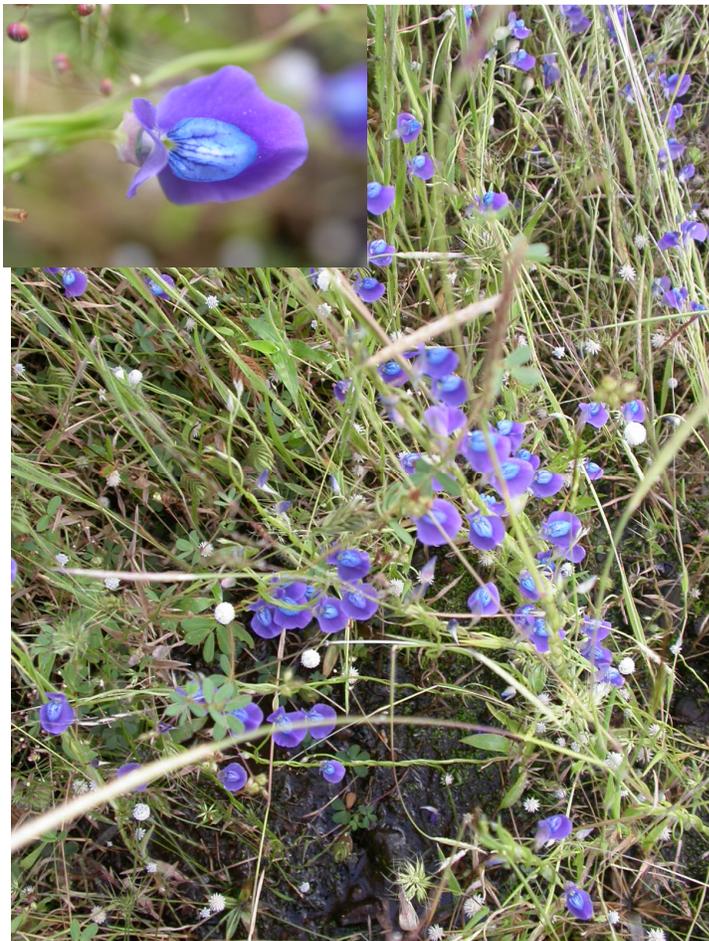


LENTIBULARIACEAE

***Utricularia reticulata* Sm.** [= *Utricularia reticulata* Sm. var. *parviflora* Santapau]

Local name: Kaka poo, Nelli poo (Malayalam)



***Utricularia reticulata* Sm.**

Courtesy: N.V. Malpure

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 2 cm long, capillary, branches 1-2 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 6 cm long, capillary, profusely branched, branches hyaline. Foliar organs up to 6 x 1 mm, linear, numerous on stolons, 1-nerved, glandular, attenuate at base, obtuse at apex. Traps 0.7-3 mm across, subglobose, slightly compressed, subdimorphic, those on leaves sessile or subsessile, and elsewhere stalked; stalk distally thickened; mouth basal; appendages 2, simple, subulate. Racemes up to 75 cm long, 1-2 mm thick, twining, rarely erect, glabrous, up to 12-flowered; scales 2-3 x 1-1.5 mm, basifixed, ovate to lanceate, 3-5-nerved, acute to acuminate at apex; bracteoles 2-3 x 0.3-0.5 mm, subulate, 1-nerved; flowers 15-25 mm long; pedicels 4.5-25 mm long, winged, erect in flower, spread or recurved in fruit. Calyx-lobes 4-8 x 3-7 mm (7-11 x 4.5-8 mm in fruit), lanceate to ovate, glandular within, acute to acuminate at apex in upper lobe, bi- or tridentate at apex in lower lobe. Corolla violet to pink; upper lip 7.5-12 mm long, obovate to suborbicular, broader than

calyx-lobes, white-streaked, rounded, notched or slightly 3-lobed at apex; lower lip 10-15 x 8-11 mm, orbicular to obovate, hairy in throat, gibbous at base, truncate, notched or rarely rounded at apex; spur 6-10 mm long, conical, slightly curved, acute at apex. Stamens 2-3 mm long; filaments curved, strap-shaped, 1-nerved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil 2-3 mm long; ovary ovoid, compressed; style short, distinct, flat; stigma 2-lipped, truncate at apex. Capsules 4-7 x 3.5-5 mm, ovoid, oblongoid or discoid, compressed, dehisce by two marginally thickened vertical slits on both surfaces; placenta 3-4.5 x 3-3.5 mm, discoid to ovoid. Seeds 0.2-0.4 mm, obovoid, ellipsoid or rhomboid; hilum prominent, lateral; testa reticulate, cells elongate and finely striated within.

Fl. & Fr.: July-December (profuse); January-May (rare).

Habitat: In wet or water-logged soil, especially in paddy fields; twining among themselves to form a rope or twining on paddy culms, sedges, *Xyris* sp. etc., from sea-level to 1000 m, sprouts up immediately after southwest monsoon.

Pollen: 4- or 5-colporate, 23-25 x 31-32 μ (Thanikaimoni, 1966); 4- or 5-colporate, 25 x 35 μ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: India - along the west coast from Saurashtra to Kerala through Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and areas of Tamil Nadu bordering Kerala. India and Sri Lanka.

Notes: Inflorescence of *Utricularia reticulata* Sm. is the largest of all the species of *Utricularia* occurring in India. This was perhaps one of earliest plants reported from India as 'Nelipu' by van Rheede in his Hortus Malabaricus (1689). This Malayalam name was based on "Nellu" = paddy; Pu = flower, since the plants occur mostly in paddy fields. This was included in *U. caerulea* L. by Linnaeus (1753), until Sm. (1805) rightly segregated and named it as *U. reticulata*.

Type collection of *U. reticulata* Sm. var. *parviflora* Santapau was critically studied. This represented only the stunted form of the species. Since intermediates are seen this variety is not recognised in the present work.

References:

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 91-95.

Taylor, P. 1989. The genus *Utricularia* – a taxonomic monograph. *Kew Bull. Add. Ser.* 14: 1-724.

Thanikaimoni, G. 1966. Pollen morphology of the genus *Utricularia*. *Pollen et Spores* 8: 265-284.