

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia scandens Benj. [= *Utricularia volubilis* Hook ex Benj.; *U. wallichii* Wight; *U. wallichiana* Wight; *U. macrolepis* Wight; *U. wallichiana* Wight var. *macrolepis* (Wight) Gamble].

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 1.5 cm long, branches up to 1 mm, papillose; stolons up to 3 cm long, filiform, profusely branched. Foliar organs up to 15 x 1 mm, linear, 1-nerved, acute or rounded at apex.



Utricularia scandens Benj.

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

Traps c 1 mm across, more or less globose; stalk glandular, often columnar growth present near base; mouth basal; appendages 2, simple, subulate. Racemes up to 25 cm long, twining, rarely erect in smaller ones, glabrous, 1-9-flowered with sterile bracts present in between fertile ones; scales 0.7-1.5 mm long, basifixed, ovate to lanceate, acute to acuminate at apex, 1-nerved, rarely nerves absent; bracts 1-1.5 mm long, basifixed, broadly ovate, 1-nerved, acuminate to caudate at apex; bracteoles 0.3-1.4 mm long, linear to lanceolate, 1-nerved, rarely nerves absent; flowers 5-12 mm long; pedicels 1-5 mm long, erect, winged. Calyx-lobes 2-3 x 1.1 - 3 mm (3-5 x 2-4 mm in fruit), ovate; upper lobe acute to acuminate at apex; lower lobe bi- or tridentate at apex. Corolla yellow; upper lip 2-3 mm long, obovate to oblong, constricted near middle, a crest running across at middle, obtuse to emarginate at apex; lower lip 3-6.5 x 2.5-3 mm, more or less obovate, hairy in throat, gibbous at base, rounded or shallowly emarginate at apex; spur 2-6 mm long, subulate or rarely conical, acute and curved at apex. Stamens c 1 mm long; filaments flat, twisted; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1 mm long; ovary ovoid; stigma bilipped, lower lip oblong and hairy, upper lip semi-

orbicular and glabrous. Capsules c 2.5 x 1.5 mm, oblongoid to ovoid, dorsiventrally compressed, dehiscent margin thickened; placenta c 1.5 x 1 mm, compressed, oblong, shallowly pitted. Seeds 0.2-0.35 mm long, ovoid to ellipsoid; hilum prominent; testa reticulate, cells elongated.

Fl. & Fr.: Throughout the year with a peak during September to December.

Habitat: Along wet and marshy places, twining among themselves or on other plants; from sea-level to 2,600 m.

Chromosomes: n = 6 (Subramanyam & Kamble, 1968 - specimen from Yercaud alone).

Pollen: 3- or 4-colporate, 22-23 x 28-30 μ (Thanikaimoni, 1966); 3- or 4-colporate, 20 x 25 μ (Huynh, 1968); 3-colporate, 25 x 30 μ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: India - in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Africa to Northern Australia through India and Malesia.

Notes: *Utricularia scandens* Benj. is easily recognised in the field by its combination of characters like twining racemes, yellow flowers and presence of sterile bracts in between fertile ones.

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. 97-101.

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.

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