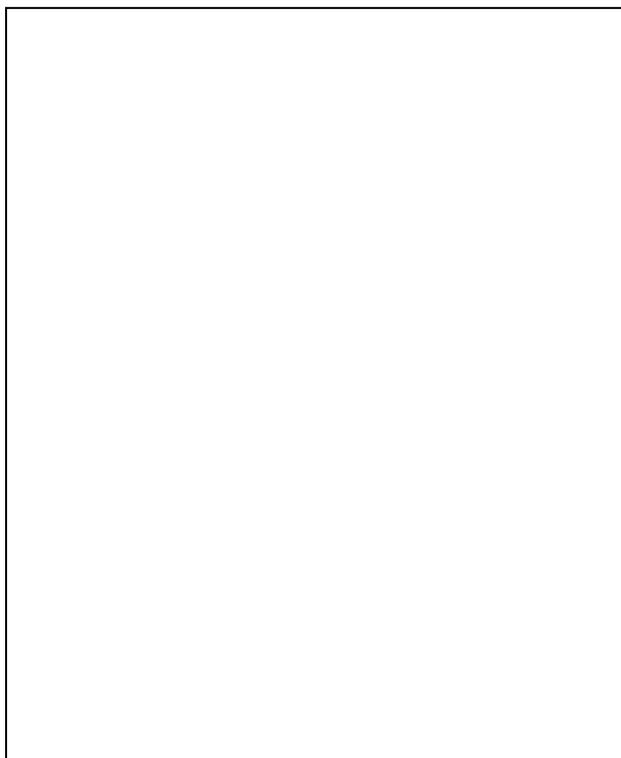


## LENTIBULARIACEAE

### ***Utricularia ceciliae*** P. Taylor

**Local name:** Paara poo, Krishna poo (Malayalam).

**Description:** Herbs; rhizoids up to 2 cm long, 0.3-0.4 mm thick, tapering towards apex, glandular, branches up to 3 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 4 cm long, c 0.2 mm thick, glandular. Foliar organs up to 10 x 2 mm, narrowly obovate, solitary at each stolon node, 3-nerved, rounded at apex. Traps up to 1 mm across, subglobose, subdimorphic, on vegetative organs; stalk distally thickened or even throughout; mouth



basal; appendages 2, subulate, glandular. Racemes up to 18 cm long, c 0.7 mm thick, erect, rarely branched, angular, grooved, 1-6-flowered; scales up to 2 mm long, basifixed, ovate-deltoid, 3-nerved, rarely 1-nerved, acute at apex; bracts c 1.8 mm long, basifixed, ovate-deltoid, 1, 3 or 5-nerved, acute at apex; bracteoles shorter than bract, subulate, rarely 1-nerved; flowers up to 9-15 mm long; pedicels 2-9 mm long, erect at anthesis and spread in fruit; winged. Calyx-lobes unequal; upper lobe 3-6 x 3-4.5 mm, broadly ovate, margins dentate, acute at apex; lower lobe 3-4 x 2.5-3.5 mm, ovate, bi- or tridentate at apex. Corolla deep violet; upper lip c 7 x 5 mm, obovate, constricted at middle, crested near constriction, margins hairy near base, rounded or rarely emarginate at apex; lower lip 8-11 x 8-10 mm, galeate, hairy at throat, gibbous at base, rounded to emarginate at apex. Stamens 1.5-1.8 mm long; filaments strap-shaped, curved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1.8 mm long; ovary ovoid,

compressed; style flat; stigma 2-lipped, semi-orbicular, rarely truncate. Capsules 3.5-4 x 2.5-3 mm, ovoid, dehisce by a single vertical slit; placenta 2-2.5 x 1.5-2 mm, ovoid, compressed. Seeds 0.2-0.35 mm long, obovoid; hilum terminal; testa reticulate, cells elongate, polygonal, intercellular space distinct.

**Fl. & Fr.:** August-September.

**Habitat:** Wet or water logging places over laterite rocks; from sea-level to 700 m.

**Distribution:** India - Endemic to S. Kanara district of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala.

**Pollen:** 4-5-colporate, 28 x 34  $\mu$  (Taylor, 1989).

**Notes:** *Utricularia ceciliae* Taylor is allied to *U. uliginosa* Vahl and can be easily differentiated by its large flowers, broader upper lip of corolla, obovoid seeds and intercellular spaces in testa. Also allied to *U. reticulata* Sm., but can be differentiated by its erect inflorescence, 3-nerved foliar organs, subequal calyx-lobes, uniformly membranous capsule, absence of striations within the testa cells, and presence of intercellular spaces. In *U. ceciliae* the floral parts in cleistogamous flowers are crowded and much reduced: Calyx-lobes minute, 1-nerved; corolla cup-like or absent; anthers indistinct from filaments, and pistil rudimentary. Two types of glands are seen on the traps of this species. Traps on foliar organs have glandular hairs and traps present elsewhere have sessile, globose glands.

*U. ceciliae* grows abundantly on laterite rocks, forming a violet "carpet" during flowering season, and can easily be recognised even from a moving bus. The plant is well known to the local people of

Northern Kerala as "Krishna poo" or "Paara poo", as it is used for decoration during the festival of "Singha maasam".

**References:**

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 47-49.

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