

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia hirta Klein ex Link [= *Utricularia capillacea* Vahl; *U. setacea* Wall. ex Oliv.; *U. tayloriana* J. Joseph & Mani]

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 6 mm long; stolons up to 1 mm long, glandular, sparsely branched. Foliar organs up to 15 mm, linear, 1-nerved, glandular, obtuse at apex. Traps c 0.3 mm across,



Utricularia hirta Klein ex Link

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

subglobose; stalk short; mouth lateral; appendages of three connate processes, the one on upper lip subulate, 2 laterals wing-like with gland tipped processes. Racemes up to 12 cm long, erect, filiform, terete, simple or branched, densely hairy throughout, 1-4-flowered; scales similar to bracts; bracts c 0.8 mm long, basifixed, linear-lanceate, 1-nerved, hairy, acute at apex; bracteoles more or less equal to bracts in length, linear, 1-nerved, hairy; flowers up to 7 mm long; pedicels 1-2 mm long, erect, terete. Calyx-lobes subequal, c 1.5 x 1 mm (c. 3 x 2 mm in fruit), ovate, hairy, obtuse to emarginate at apex, rarely lower lobe splits into two. Corolla pink to light violet; upper lip up to 3 mm long, oblong, constricted at middle, emarginate at apex; lower lip c 3 x 3 mm, obovate, slightly 3-lobed, raised at base; spur 3-5 mm long, subulate, horizontal or slightly curved upwards, constricted at middle, acute at apex. Stamens c 1 mm long; filaments linear, curved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1 mm long; ovary ovoid; style short, thick; stigma 2-lipped, lower lip semi-orbicular, upper shallowly 3-lobed. Capsules up to 1.8 mm across, obliquely subglobose, thickened along dehisced margin; placenta c 1 mm across, subglobose. Seeds c 0.2 mm across, subglobose; hilum not prominent; testa cells few, large, slightly elongated.

Fl. & Fr.: August-January.

Habitat: Sprouts immediately after monsoon; in wet and marshy open sandy places from sea-level to 1800 m.

Pollen: 3-colporate, 33 x 29 μ (Huynh, 1968); 3-colporate, 20 x 25 μ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: India to Malesia; in India recorded from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

Notes: *Utricularia hirta* Klein ex Link is allied to *U. minutissima* Vahl but can be easily differentiated by the presence of septate hairs and thickening along the dehisced margin of the capsule. Though described on the basis of South Indian material, it was not included in Gamble (1924).

Utricularia tayloriana J. Joseph & Mani described from Meghalaya is treated conspecific with *U. hirta* Klein ex Link after critical study of type materials and scrutinization of protologue.

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. 61-65.

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