

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia lazulina P. Taylor

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 15 mm long, c 0.3 mm thick, tapering towards apex, branches 1-3 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 25 mm long, c 0.2 mm thick, sparsely branched. Foliar organs 2-10 mm long, obovate to oblanceate, distributed on stolons and at base of peduncle, 3-nerved, rounded at apex. Traps



Utricularia lazulina Taylor

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

0.7-2 mm across, subglobose, subdimorphic; stalk evenly or distally thickened; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate, simple, recurved or divergent, glandular. Racemes 3.5-12 cm long, c 0.5 mm thick, erect; peduncle angular, grooved, winged, glabrous; scales 0.7-1.2 mm long, basifixed, ovate to lanceate, acute to acuminate at apex, nerves absent, rarely dormant buds are seen at axils; bracts 1-1.6 mm long, ovate to lanceate,

acuminate, rarely acute or tridentate at apex; nerves absent or obscurely 1-nerved; bracteoles 0.75-1.2 mm long, subulate; flowers 7-11 mm long; pedicels 2-5 mm long (5-9 mm in fruit), erect in flowers, spreading in fruit, narrowly winged. Calyx-lobes slightly unequal; upper lobe 2-3 x 1.7-2 mm (3-3.75 x 2.5-3 mm in fruit), ovate, acute to acuminate at apex; lower lobes 2.4-3 x 1.2-1.8 mm (3.7-4 x 2-2.5 mm in fruit), lanceate to linear-ovate, bidentate or rarely acuminate at apex. Corolla clear blue to violet, rarely pink; lower lip 3-6 x 1.2-2 mm, oblong, constricted at middle, ciliate along lower margins, rounded at apex; lower lip 5-8 mm across, galeate, yellow and hairy at throat, bigibbous at base, truncate or rarely emarginate at apex; spur 5-7 mm long, subulate, curved, acute at apex. Stamens 1-1.5 mm long; filaments strap-shaped, slightly curved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil 1-1.5 mm long; ovary ovoid, compressed; style distinct, broad; stigma 2-lipped, semi-orbicular. Capsules 2-3 x 1.5-2.5 mm, ovoid, wall uniformly membranous; placenta 1-1.5 x 1-1.3 mm, ovoid, compressed. Seeds 0.2-0.35 mm long, obovoid; hilum prominent, subterminal; testa reticulate, cells elongated and verrucose within.

Fl. & Fr.: July-September.

Habitat: Sprouts up immediately after rains in wet or water-logging places over laterite rocks, grasslands and rarely on soil-covered black boulders; from sea level to 700 m.

Pollen: 3-4-colporate, 25 x 30 μ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: **India** - Endemic to W. Ghats; Karnataka, North Kerala and Goa.

Notes: *Utricularia lazulina* Taylor is allied to *U. albocaerulea* Dalzell, but can be distinguished by its comparatively smaller flowers, oblong upper lip of corolla, absence of thickening along the dehiscing margin of capsule, and unique, verrucose testa cells.

This species earlier known only from its type locality is now recorded from Goa in north to Palghat district, Kerala in South.

References:

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 67-69.

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