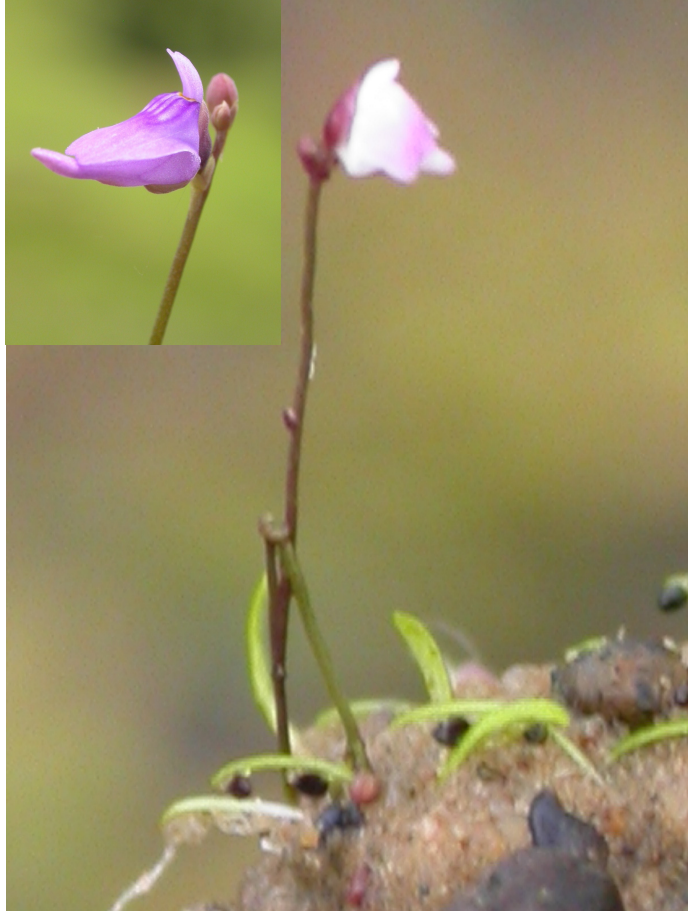


LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia minutissima Vahl [= *Utricularia capillacea* Wight ex Oliv.; *U. lilliput* Pellegr.]

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 1 cm long, simple, glandular; stolons up to 2 cm long, glandular or glabrous, sparsely branched. Foliar



Utricularia minutissima Vahl

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav & N.V. Malpure

organs up to 15 mm long, linear, 1-nerved, glandular and terete at base, rounded at apex. Traps 0.2-0.3 mm across, subglobose to ovoid, on vegetative organs, stalked; mouth lateral, circular; upper lip with one subulate appendage; lower lip with two, lateral, wing-like appendages of radiating rows of gland-tipped processes. Racemes 2-7 cm long, erect, reddish-brown, glabrous, 1-4-flowered; scales similar to bracts; bracts c 0.8 mm long, basifixed, linear-ovate, rarely 1-nerved, often united at base with bracteoles; bracteoles up to 0.8 mm long, at least half as wide as bracts, linear-ovate, 1-nerved; flowers c 4 mm long; pedicels up to 0.5 mm long, terete. Calyx-lobes slightly unequal, ovate to obovate, hooded, glabrous or rarely papillose; upper lobe 1.2-2 mm long, obtuse at apex; lower 1.3-1.8 mm long, notched at apex. Corolla pink with a white tinge; upper lip up to 2.5 mm long, oblong, ciliate along lower margin, rounded or emarginate at apex; lower lip c 1.3 x 2 mm, shallowly 3-lobed, raised at base; spur up to 2.5 mm long, straight, horizontal, notched at apex.

Stamens c 0.9 mm long; filaments flattened, curved, 1-nerved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 0.9 mm long; ovary obliquely ovoid; styles short; stigma 2-lipped, lower lip short or obsolete, upper long and recurved. Capsules up to 2 mm long, obliquely ovoid, uniformly membranous; placenta c 1 mm long, ovoid. Seeds c 0.2 mm across, globose to obovoid; testa reticulate, cells large, more or less isodiametric.

Fl. & Fr.: August-September (to December).

Habitat: In wet sandy soil near water stagnant places; from sea-level to 500 m.

Chromosomes: $n = 8$ (Subramanyam & Kamble, 1968).

Pollen: 3-colporate, 24-26 x 17-18 μ or 20 x 22 μ (Thanikaimoni, 1966); 3-colporate, 18 x 22 μ (Huynh, 1968); 3-colporate, 24 x 26 μ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: **India** - Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. India to Japan and South to Australia;

Notes: *Utricularia minutissima* Vahl is related to *U. hirta* Klein ex Link. But the former can be distinguished by its reddish brown inflorescence, absence of septate hairs, and uniformly membranous capsule.

According to Subramanyam (*l.c.*) the range of colours noticed in flowers from pink, blue, violet to white is perhaps due to the difference in the habitat and type of soil.

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