

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia polygaloides Edgew. [= *Utricularia reticulata* Sm. var. *stricticaulis* Koenig ex Oliv.; *U. reticulata* Sm. var. *uliginosa* C.B. Clarke; *U. stricticaulis* (Koenig ex Oliv.) Stapf ex Gamble]

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 3 cm long, c 0.5 mm thick at base, glandular, branches 1-3 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 2 cm long, glandular, sparsely branched. Foliar organs up to 12 x 0.5 mm, linear,



Utricularia polygaloides Edgew.

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

solitary at scape base and scattered on stolons, 1-nerved, acute to obtuse at apex. Traps up to 1 mm across, globose; stalk distally thickened, glandular hairy; mouth basal; appendages 2, simple, subulate, hairy. Racemes up to 26 cm long, c 1.5 mm thick, tapering at base, terete, glabrous, up to 12-flowered; scales c 1 mm long, basifixed, ovate to lanceolate, 1,3- or 5-nerved, acute to obtuse at apex; bracts up to 3 mm long, basifixed, broadly ovate, 3- or 5-nerved, acute to acuminate at apex; bracteoles 1-2 mm long, basifixed, subulate, 1-nerved; flowers up to 9 mm long. Calyxlobes 3.3-7 x 2-4.2 mm, ovate to lanceolate; upper lobe acute to acuminate at apex; lower lobe bi- or tridentate or rarely acuminate at apex. Corolla violet with white streaks; upper lip 4-4.5 x 2-3 mm long, oblong or obovate, obtuse at apex; lower lip 5-6 x 3-4 mm, obovate, hairy in throat, raised and gibbous at base, rounded or emarginate at apex; spur more or less equal to calyx-lobe in length, conical, pointing downwards, acute at apex. Stamens 1.5-2 mm long; filaments strap-shaped, 1-nerved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil 1.5-2 mm long; ovary ovoid, compressed, slightly curved; style distinct; stigma bilipped, upper lip reduced or 3-denticulate, or distinct and oblong, lower lip semi-

orbicular and recurved. Capsules 3-6 x 2.5-3.5 mm, ovoid, compressed, dehisce by marginally thickened vertical slits on both sides; placenta 2.5-3.2 x 2.2-2.7 mm, compressed, rectangular in outline. Seeds c 0.3 mm long, ellipsoid; hilum distinct, subterminal or lateral; testa reticulate, cells elongated and finely striated within.

Fl. & Fr.: November to February.

Habitat: Wet or water logged sandy areas like wastelands, sea-shore etc., rarely in gravelly ground and rocky areas; from sea-level to 600 m.

Chromosomes: $n = 7$ (Subramanyam & Kamble, 1968).

Pollen: 4- or 5-colporate, 23-26 x 28-30 μ (Thanikaimoni, 1966); 3- or 4-colporate, 21 x 28 μ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: **India** - recorded from West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. India and Sri Lanka.

Notes: The identity of *Utricularia polygaloides* Edgew. is often confused with *U. bifida* L. in fruiting condition. But the former can be distinguished by its acute to acuminate apices of calyx lobes, thickened margin along the dehiscence of capsule, and non-recurved fruiting pedicel.

References:

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 79-81.

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.