

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia praeterita P. Taylor

Description: Herbs; rhizoids up to 1 cm long, c 0.2 mm thick, glandular, branches c 1 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 2 cm long, c 0.15 mm thick, glandular, sparsely branched. Foliar organs up to 10 x 1.5 mm, spatulate to obovoid, 3-nerved, rounded at apex. Traps up to 1.5 mm across, subglobose, slightly



Utricularia praeterita Taylor

Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

compressed; stalk evenly thickened or distally thickened; mouth basal; appendages 2, simple, subulate, glandular. Racemes up to 18 cm long, slightly grooved, winged, glabrous, 1-7-flowered; scales up to 1 mm long, basifixed, lanceate to suborbicular, 1-nerved (rarely nerves absent), acute to obtuse at apex; bracts up to 1.6 mm long, basifixed, broadly ovate-deltoid to semi-orbicular, usually 1-nerved (rarely nerves absent), acuminate at apex; bracteoles up to 1 mm long, basifixed, linear, acuminate at apex; flowers 6-7 mm long; pedicels 1.2-5 mm long, winged, erect or spread. Calyx-lobes subequal, papillose without, denticulate along margins; upper lobe 2-2.5 x 2-3 mm (2-5 x 2-4 mm in fruit), broadly ovate, acuminate to obtuse or rarely bi- or tridentate at apex; lower lobe 2-2.3 x 1.6-2 mm (2-4 x 1.6-3.3 mm in fruit), ovate, bidentate to bifid at apex. Corolla violet; upper lip c 3 mm long, oblong, constricted near middle, crested across at middle, shallowly emarginate to truncate at apex; lower lip 3.5-5 x 3-3.5 mm, obovate to suborbicular, hairy in throat, gibbous at base, rounded or slightly 3-4-lobed at apex; spur c 3.5 mm long, descending, papillose and glandular within, acute at apex. Stamens 1.2 mm long; filaments strap-shaped; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1.2 mm long;

ovary ovoid, slightly compressed; style small; stigma bilipped, lower lip orbicular, recurved, upper lip obsolete. Capsules ovoid, 2-3 x 1.3-2 mm, slightly compressed, dehisce ventrally by a vertical slit; placenta 1.4-1.7 x 0.7-1.2 mm, obovoid to ellipsoid. Seeds 0.3-0.4 mm long, ellipsoid; hilum lateral or latero-terminal, distinct; testa reticulate, cells narrow, elongated, compact, often obliquely arranged.

Fl. & Fr.: August-October.

Habitat: Along streamlets, dripping rocks, and marshy places near waterfalls in hills; associated with grasses and species of *Eriocaulon*, *Drosera*, *Rhamphicarpa*, and *Utricularia purpurascens*.

Pollen: 4- or 5-colporate, 25 x 30 μ (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: **India** - Endemic to Goa and Maharashtra of W. India; possibly in Northern Karnataka.

Notes: Specimens referred to *Utricularia praeterita* p. Taylor from Tamil Nadu in the protologue are the extreme forms of *U. uliginosa* Vahl. Since the original description is based only on the type materials (Holotype - Taylor 18104 K) from Panchgani, Maharashtra there is no ambiguity regarding the application of the name - *U. praeterita* P. Taylor.

Deeply bidentate fruiting calyx-lobes, ellipsoid seeds with lateral or latero-terminal hilum and much elongated testa cells of *U. praeterita* readily differentiate it from its ally *U. uliginosa* which has obtuse or minutely bi or tridentate lower fruiting calyx-lobes, globose to subglobose seeds with terminal hilum and more or less isodiametric to slightly elongated cells.

References:

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 81-83.

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