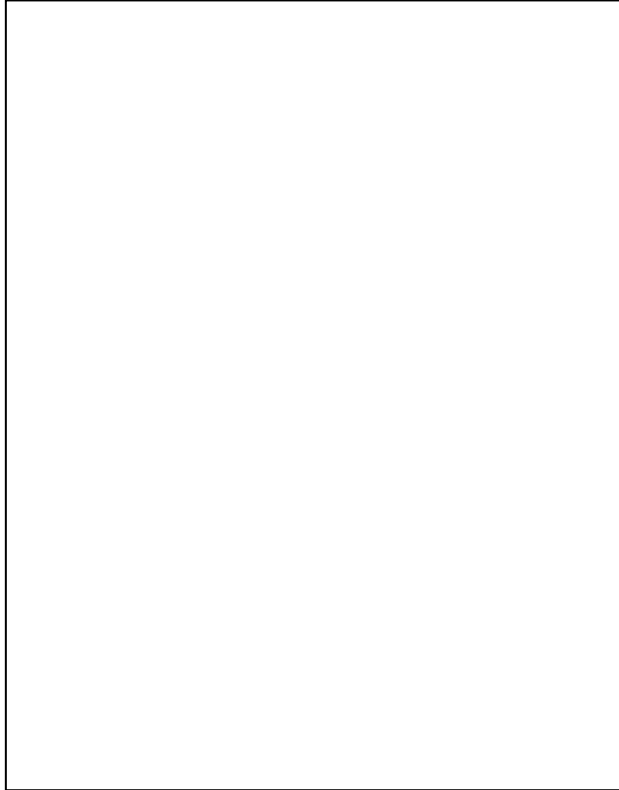


LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia pubescens Sm.

Description: Herbs; rhizoids few, capillary, simple; stolons up to 2 cm long or more, sparsely branched. Foliar organs with pseudopetiole up to 8 mm long, peltate, at scape base and on stolons; peltate portion



up to 2 mm across, orbicular, nerves dichotomously divided. Traps c 1 mm long, globose to obovoid, on vegetative organs; stalk evenly thickened; mouth terminal; appendages of gland-tipped hairs arranged on lips in rows in a comb-like pattern. Racemes up to 5 cm long, filiform, papillose, 1-5-flowered; scales similar to bracts; bracts c 1.5 mm long, basisolute, linear to lanceolate, papillose to pubescent, acute at apex; bracteoles c 1 mm long, basisolute, linear; flowers up to 7 mm long; pedicels c 0.9 mm long, erect, terete. Calyx-lobes unequal in fruiting, papillose; upper lobe c 1 x 0.8 mm (c 1.4 x 1.1 mm in fruit), ovate, acute at apex; lower lobe 1 x 0.8 mm (c 1.2 x 1.4 mm in fruit), broadly ovate to suborbicular, bidentate at apex. Corolla mauve to bluish-purple; upper lip c 3.5 mm long, more or less oblong, papillose to ciliate at lower margins, rounded or truncate at apex; lower lip c 3.5 x 2.5 mm, variable in shape, gibbous and double crested at base, rounded or 3-lobed at apex; spur 4-6 mm long, obtuse at apex. Stamens c 1 mm long; filaments strap-shaped, curved;

anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1 mm long; ovary ovoid; style distinct; stigma 2-lipped, lower lip semi-orbicular, upper lip oblong. Capsules 1-2 mm across, subglobose, attached obliquely to upper calyx-lobe, dehisce ventrally by a longitudinal slit; placenta c 0.4 mm long, ellipsoid. Seeds c 0.2 mm long, obovoid; testa reticulate, cells elongated to more or less isodiametric at distal end.

Fl. & Fr.: July-October.

Habitat: Open marshy places, among mosses and grasses or along streamlets above 900 m. In E. Himalayas it is found amidst mosses, liverworts like *Marchantia* and other bryophytes at altitudes from 2100-2700 m.

Pollen: 7- or 8-colporate, 30 x 30 μ (Huynh, 1968); 8-10 colporate, 26-36 x 26-34 μ . (Taylor, 1989).

Distribution: **India** - Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh. South America, Tropical Africa and India.

Notes: *Utricularia pubescens* Sm. can be identified with the help of its foliar organs, which are peltate. Taylor (1964) states that "the upper surface of the leaves, at least when they are young, is covered with a layer of mucilage, but it is not known whether this provides a second method of trapping small organisms, similar to that found in *Pinguicula*".

References:

- Huynh, K.L. 1968. Etude de morphologic du pollen genre *Utricularia* L. *Pollen et Spores* 10: 11-55.
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Mondal, A.K. 2004. *Utricularia pubescens* – a report from the Eastern Himalayas. *J. Bot. Soc.* 58: 51-54.
Taylor, P. 1989. The genus *Utricularia* – a taxonomic monograph. *Kew Bull. Add. Ser.* 14: 1-724.