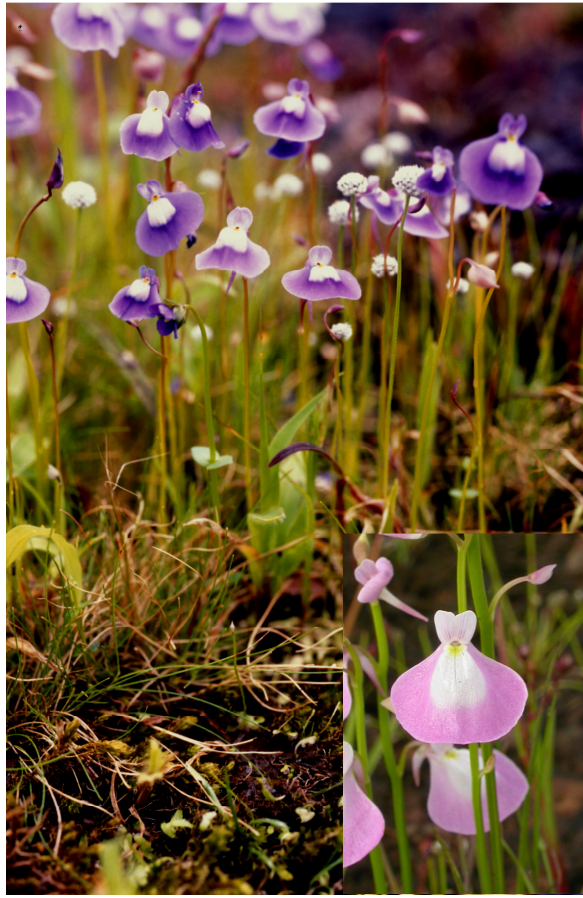


## LENTIBULARIACEAE

***Utricularia purpurascens*** Graham [= *Utricularia arcuata* Wight]

**Description:** Herbs; rhizoids up to 2 cm long, c 0.5 mm thick at base, glandular, branches 1-4 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 3 cm long, c 0.2 mm thick, sparsely glandular, branched. Foliar organs up to 7.5 x 2 mm, spatulate, at scape base and on stolons, 3-nerved, rounded at apex. Traps c 1 mm across,



***Utricularia purpurascens*** Graham

Courtesy: S.R. Yavad

subglobose, slightly compressed, on vegetative organs; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate, glandular. Racemes up to 25 cm long, c 1 mm thick, glabrous, 1-7-flowered; scales 1-2 x 1-1.5 mm, basifixed, ovate to oblong, 1-nerved, truncate at base, acute to acuminate at apex, bracts 1-2 x 1-1.5 mm, basifixed, ovate to oblong, 3-nerved, truncate at base, acuminate at apex; bracteoles c 1.2 mm long, linear, 1-nerved, acute at apex; flowers up to 14 mm long; pedicels up to 12 mm long, c 0.7 mm wide, winged, erect in flower, recurved in fruit. Calyx-lobes ovate, papillose; upper lobe 3.5-4 x 3.5-4 mm (5-5.5 x 5-6 mm in fruit), acute at apex; lower lobe 3.2-4 x 2.7-4 mm (5-5.5 x 4.8-5.2 mm in fruit), bidentate at apex. Corolla pink, white at base, yellow in throat; upper lip c 5.5 x 4 mm, papillose, upper limb obovate, lower limb quadrate, ciliate at lower margin, emarginate at apex; lower lip 8-15 mm across, more or less orbicular, hairy in throat, gibbous at base; spur 9-12 mm long, sickle-shaped, curved below lower lip. Stamens c 1.7 mm long; filaments strap-shaped, curved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 2 x 1 mm; ovary ovoid; style short; stigma bilipped, lower lip semi-orbicular, upper broadly triangular. Capsules 3-4 x 2.3-3 mm, ovoid, slightly compressed, dehisce by a ventral, marginally thickened vertical slit. Seeds c 0.3 mm

long, ellipsoid; hilum subterminal; testa reticulate, cells elongated and parallelly arranged.

**Fl. & Fr.:** August-October.

**Habitat:** On wet laterite rocks, soil covered black boulders and grassy slopes; associated with grasses, species of *Eriocaulon*, *Rhamphicarpa*, and *Striga gesnerioides* (Willd.) Vatke.

**Pollen:** 4 or 5-colporate, 25-27 x 27-28  $\mu$  (Thanikaimoni, 1966); 4- or 5-colporate, 20 x 25  $\mu$ . (Taylor, 1989).

**Distribution:** **India** - Endemic to Northern parts of W. Ghats; distributed from Maharashtra to Gujarat in north, and to Karnataka and Goa in south.

**Notes:** *Utricularia purpurascens* Graham (*l.c.*) was validly published on the basis of materials observed in Mahabaleshwar. John Graham's catalogue, in general, did not deal with dried specimens in a herbarium. In the absence of original materials preserved in any of the herbaria, Janarthanam 82941 (MH) collected from the type locality after a lapse of about 150 years is designated as the neotype of the species.

*Utricularia arcuata* Wight (*l.c.*) described from the materials collected in Belgaum by Lawson (73, K) has since been proved conspecific with *U. purpurascens* Graham.

*Utricularia purpurascens* is allied to *U. albocaerulea* Dalzell, from which it can be differentiated by its characteristic sickle-shaped spur of the corolla. Fischer erroneously reported it from the Anamalais of Coimbatore; the specimen (in CAL) turned out to be only *U. uliginosa* Vahl.

*Utricularia purpurascens* Graham, since neotypified by Janarthanam 82941 (MH) is undoubtedly distinct, and its inclusion under *U. graminifolia* Vahl (Taylor 1989) appears to be erroneous.

**References:**

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 85-89.

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.