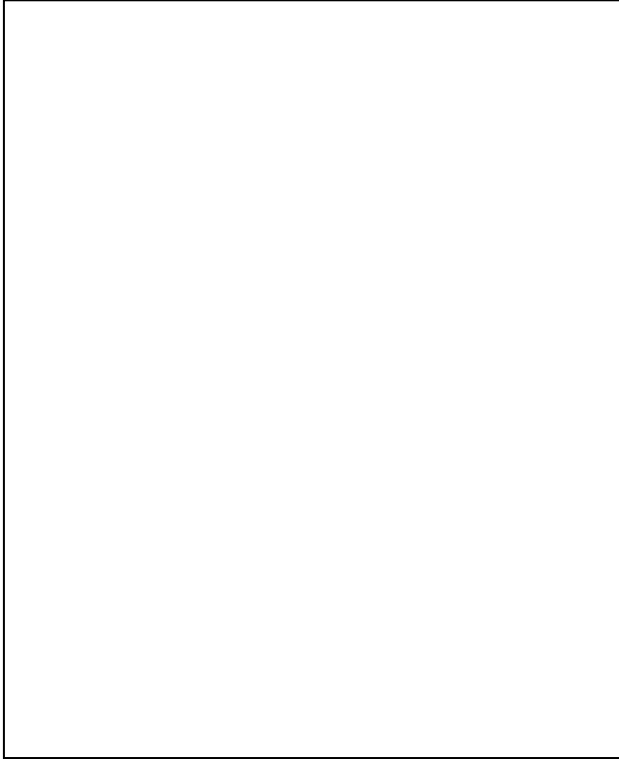


## LENTIBULARIACEAE

**Utricularia uliginosa** Vahl [= *Utricularia affinis* Wight; *U. brachypoda* Wight; *U. griffithii* Wight; *U. decipiens* Dalzell; *U. affinis* Wight var. *griffithii* (Wight) Oliv.].

**Description:** Herbs; rhizoids up to 2 cm long, capillary, tapering towards apex, branches 1.5 mm long, papillose; stolons up to 5 cm long, profusely branched. Foliar organs up to 8 x 1 cm, linear, rounded at



apex, 3-nerved, nerves often branched further. Traps up to 1.5 mm across, subglobose, glandular; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate, globose, glandular; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate, simple, glandular. Racemes up to 30 cm long, erect, terete, often grooved and winged, 1-6-flowered; scales 1-2 mm long, basifixed, ovate to deltoid, 3-nerved, acute at apex; bracts 1-2.5 mm long, basifixed, ovate to deltoid, 1-3-nerved, acute at apex; bracteoles 0.6-1.5 mm long, subulate; flowers up to 8 mm long; pedicels 1.5-7 mm long, winged, erect or spreading in fruit. Calyx-lobes more or less equal, ovate, margin denticulate; upper lobe 2.5-4 x 2.5-3 mm (up to 7.5 x 6 mm in fruit), acute to acuminate at apex; lower lobe 2.4-3.5 x 2-2.5 mm (up to 7.3 x 6 mm in fruit), 2-3-denticulate at apex. Corolla blue to violet or rarely pink; upper lip 3-4 mm long, oblong, slightly constricted at middle, crested on ventral side, hairy along lower margins, emarginate or truncate at apex; lower lip 4-6 x

2.5-4.5 mm, obovate to oblong, hairy in throat, gibbous, rounded or slightly 3-lobed at apex; spur 3-5 mm long; filaments linear; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1.5 mm long; ovary ovoid, slightly compressed; stigma bilipped, lower lip oblong and hairy, upper lip reduced to a small hemispherical structure. Capsules 3-4 x 2-3 mm, ovoid, wall uniformly membranous; placenta 1.5-3 x 1.2-2.2 mm, ovoid. Seeds c 0.4 mm across, subglobose to oblongoid; hilum terminal; testa reticulate, cells isodiametric to slightly oblong.

**Fl. & Fr.:** Throughout the year with a peak in August-October.

**Habitat:** Along marshy places and near perennial water sources from sea-level to 2,500 m.

**Pollen:** 4-colporate, 25 x 30  $\mu$  (Thanikaimoni, 1966); 4-colporate, 20 x 25  $\mu$  (Huynh, 1968); 4- or 5-colporate, 25 x 28  $\mu$  (Taylor, 1989).

**Distribution:** India - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu along Western Ghats and West Bengal. India, Sri Lanka to Japan and Australia.

**Notes:** *Utricularia uliginosa* Vahl is a highly variable species and often confused with *U. graminifolia* Vahl.

	<b>U. graminifolia</b> Vahl	<b>U. uliginosa</b> Vahl
Lower lip of Corolla	bigibbous	unigibbous
Thickening on Capsule	present	absent
Testa cells	much elongated	isodiametric or slightly elongated

The Tamil Nadu and Kerala specimens identified of late as *U. praeterita* P. Taylor are only an extreme form of *U. uliginosa* Vahl; *U. praeterita* is restricted to Maharashtra, Goa and Northern parts of Karnataka.

The variation in the size of foliar organs, racemes, pedicels, calyx-lobes and structure of seeds led the earlier botanists to erect numerous species. But, with the availability of a series of herbarium materials for study, the variation is recognised as continuous and hence many names are synonymised under *U. uliginosa* Vahl.

**References:**

- Huynh, K.L. 1968. Etude de morphologic du pollen genre *Utricularia* L. *Pollen et Spores* 10: 11-55.  
Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 113-117.  
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.