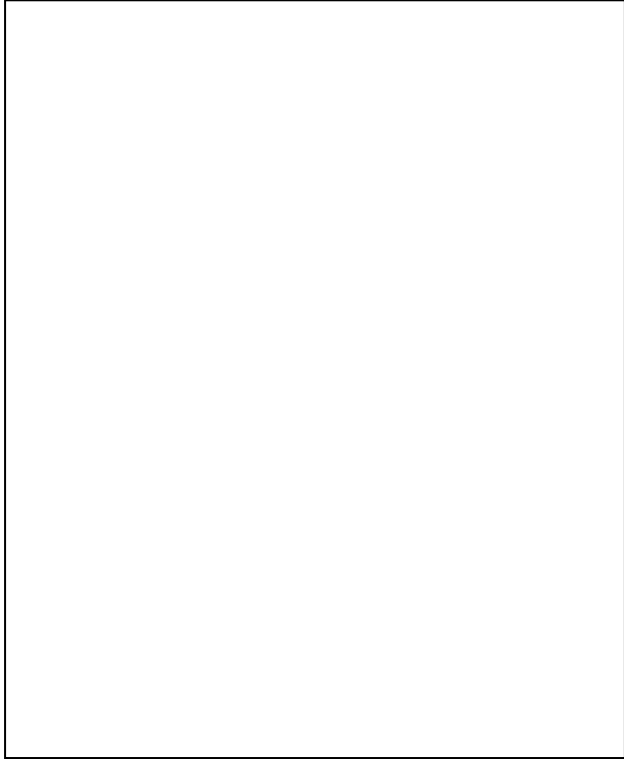


## LENTIBULARIACEAE

***Utricularia wightiana*** P. Taylor [= *U. squamosa* Wight; *U. caerulea* var. *squamosa* (Wight) C.B. Clarke]

**Description:** Herbs; rhizoids up to 1.5 cm long, branches c 1 mm long, papillose; stolons profusely branched. Traps c 1.5 mm across, subglobose; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate. Foliar organs up to



25 x 4 mm, linear, 3-nerved, rounded at apex. Traps c 1.5 mm across, subglobose; mouth basal; appendages 2, subulate, simple. Racemes up to 25 cm long, erect, c 1 mm thick, terete, 1-3-flowered; scales 1-2 x 1-1.6 mm, basifixed, ovate, 3-nerved, numerous, free and not adpressed to peduncle, glandular on inner surface, acute at apex; bracts 2-2.5 x 1.5-2 mm, basifixed, ovate to lancate, acute at apex; bracteoles 1-2 mm long, linear, 1-nerved, glandular on inner surface; flowers 8-15 mm long; pedicels 4-7 mm long, slightly winged. Calyx-lobes subequal, ovate; upper lobe 3.5-5 x 2.5-3.5 mm, acuminate at apex; lower 2.5-5 x 2.5-3 mm, bidentate at apex. Corolla blue; upper lip 3.5-5 mm long, linear, rounded at apex; lower lip 4-8 mm across, quadrate, gibbous at base, rounded or slightly emarginate at apex; spur 5-7 mm long, conical, curved and acute at apex. Stamens c 1.2 mm long; filaments strap-shaped, curved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c 1.3 mm long; ovary ovoid; style flat; stigma 2-lipped. Capsules

c 4 x 2.5 mm, ovoid, wall uniformly membranous; placenta oblongoid. Seeds c 0.4 mm across, scrobiculate; hilum terminal; testa cells more or less isodiametric, cell walls separated by a space from testa except at corners.

**Fl. & Fr.:** January-April.

**Habitat:** At high altitudes from 1,600 m to 2,200 m in marshy areas of grasslands.

**Pollen:** 4-colporate, 28 x 28  $\mu$  (Taylor, 1989).

**Distribution:** **India** - Restricted to Nilgiri and Kodaikanal hills of Tamil Nadu and Attappadi hills of Kerala.

**Notes:** *U. squamosa* Wight was variously treated by earlier workers. However, the numerous non-adpressed scales on peduncle, absence of thickening along the dehisced margin of capsule, and scrobiculate seeds with isodiametric testa cells are quite diagnostic and warrant status of a species.

*U. wightiana* P. Taylor has been proposed as a new name for this species as the name *U. squamosa* Wight (1849) is a later homonym of *U. squamosa* Benj. (1845) (= *U. caerulea* L.).

### References:

Janarthanam, M.K. & Henry, A.N. 1992. Bladderworts of India. Pp. 117-119.

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