

Utricularia caerulea (Lentibulariaceae): A new record to flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

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Abstract

Utricularia caerulea L. (Lentibulariaceae), collected from the Native Flora Garden, South Andaman is reported here as a new distributional record to flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands with a brief description.

Keywords: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India, Lentibulariaceae, New Record, *Utricularia caerulea*

Introduction

Utricularia L. (Lentibulariaceae), an insectivorous genus is popularly known as, “Bladderworts” is represented by c. 228 species (Fleischmann, 2012) and is distributed throughout the world. In India, it is represented by 38 species (Janarthanam & Henry, 1992; Yadav *et al.*, 2000, 2005). Only 2 species (*U. exoleta* R. Br. and *U. striatula* Sm.) are recorded from Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Pandey & Diwakar, 2008). During survey of plants of Native Flora Garden, Port Blair, a specimen of *Utricularia* was collected by senior author. After consultation with literature (Taylor, 1989; Janarthanam & Henry, 1992), it was identified and confirmed as *U. caerulea* L., a species distributed from Madagascar to Australia and Japan through India and Malaysia. The present collection of *U. caerulea* forms a new distributional record for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

***Utricularia caerulea* L.**, Sp. Pl.: 18. 1753; P. Taylor, Fl. Males. 8: 287. 1977 & Kew Bull. (Addit. Ser.) 14: 187, f. 43a, b. 1989; Janarth. & A.N. Henry, Bladderw. Ind.: 42, f. 9. 1992.

Fig. 1

Herbs; rhizoids to 3 cm long, glandular, branched; stolons 1 – 2 cm long, branched. Foliar organs spatulate, 5 – 8 × 1 – 1.5 mm, 1-nerved; traps ovoid, short-stalked, beaked, oblique at mouth, glandular; larger traps 1 – 1.5 mm long; smaller traps 0.5 – 0.8 mm long. Racemes erect, to 11 cm long, rarely branched, glabrous, 4 or 5-flowered; scales rhomboid, 1 – 3 mm long, medifixed; bracts elliptic, to 2.5 mm long, medifixed; bracteoles lanceolate, to 1.5 mm long; pedicels terete, c. 1 mm long. Flowers 4 – 6 mm long.

Calyx lobes unequal, 2 – 3 mm long. Corolla 4 – 8 × 3 – 4 mm, white; upper lip narrowly ovate-oblong, truncate at apex; lower lip larger, more or less orbicular; spur narrowly conical, straight. Stamens 2, c. 1 mm long; filaments curved; anther thecae distinct. Pistil c. 1 mm long; ovary ovoid; style distinct; stigma lower lip orbicular; upper lip minute. Capsules globose, c. 2 mm, dehisce vertically by a ventral slit; seeds numerous, c. 0.3 mm long.

Flowering & Fruiting: August – October.

Habitat: Marshy localities on hill top and slopes amidst grasses.

Distribution: Madagascar to Japan and Australia through India and Malaysia.

Specimen examined: INDIA, **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**, Native Flora Garden, Port Blair, 21.9.2011, M.Y. Kamble 29186 (PBL).

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Fig. 1. *Utricularia caerulea* L.: a. Inflorescence; b. Flower; c. Leaves with large traps; d. Leaf with small traps; e. Large trap; f. Scale; g. Calyx; h. Corolla – top and lateral views; i. Stamens; j. Pistil; k. Fruit with calyx; l. Seeds attached to placenta.

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