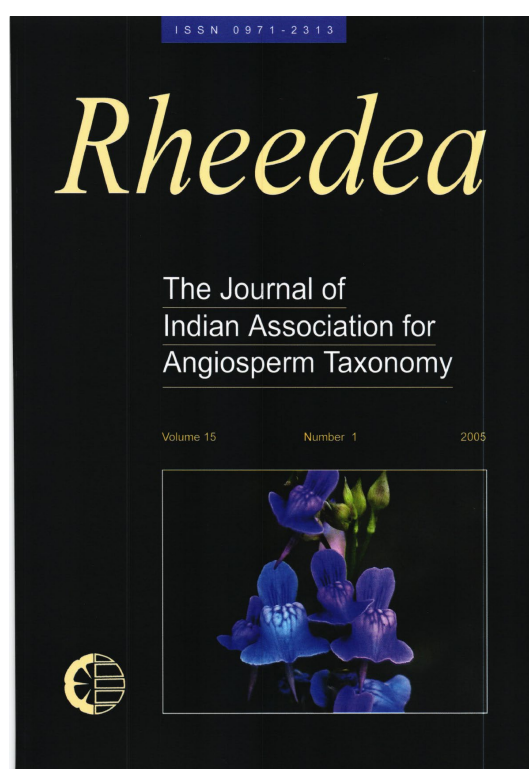




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A New Species of *Utricularia* L. (Lentibulariaceae) from the Western Ghats, India

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Abstract

Utricularia babui Yadav, Sardesai & Gaikwad, a new species, is described from the Western Ghats, India. *U. babui* is allied to *U. graminifolia* Vahl but differs in having 1 nerved, linear-filiform leaves in contrast to linear, strap shaped, 3 nerved leaves of the latter. Detailed illustrations are provided.

Keywords: *Utricularia babui*, New Bladderwort, Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Introduction

The cosmopolitan genus *Utricularia* L. (Lentibulariaceae) is represented by about 215 species widely distributed in the tropics and the subtropics with a few species in temperate regions (Taylor, 1989; Cook, 1996). The genus is represented by 37 species in India and most of the species are found in Peninsular India (Janarthanam & Henry, 1992; Yadav *et al.*, 2000). Aquatic and semiaquatic habits, microscopic features and quantitative characters varying with environmental gradients make *Utricularia* a taxonomically complex genus.

We have recorded 22 species of *Utricularia* from Maharashtra state (Sardesai *et al.*, 2001). Our detailed studies resulted in describing two new species viz.: *U. janarthanamii* and *U. naiki*. We have reported the occurrence of subterranean cleistogamous flowers in *U. janarthanamii* (Yadav *et al.*, 2000). This feature is the first report in terrestrial species of the genus though Taylor (1989) has reported cleistogamy in some aquatic species of *Utricularia*.

We have been observing some populations of *Utricularia* with elegant flowers in Kolhapur district

in Maharashtra for the last a few years. They were mistaken for *U. graminifolia* but a comparative study of these populations with freshly collected specimens of *U. graminifolia* showed important differences in the pattern of leaf venation. Further studies helped us to describe these plants as belonging to a new species.

Utricularia babui Yadav, Sardesai *et* Gaikwad *sp. nov.*

Utricularia graminifolia similis, foliis 1-nervatis filiformibus differt.

Type: INDIA, Maharashtra, Kolhapur, Suleran, 4.4.2004, Sardesai 3045 Holotype, CAL; Isotypes, BLATT, BSI, K, SUK).

Perennial herbs; rhizoids numerous, upto 5 cm long, glandular, branched; stolons 3-15 cm long, profusely branched, mat forming. *Leaves* 0.4-6 x 0.1-0.3 cm, linear-filiform, 1 or 4-5 at the base of peduncle and scattered along stolons, 1-nerved, acute or acuminate at apex; traps 1-2 mm across, those on leaves large and elsewhere small, subglobose; stalk upto 0.5 mm long; mouth basal; appendages subulate, simple; glandular hairy. *Racemes* erect, rarely twining, 6-20 cm long,

angular, grooved on one side, glabrous, 2-6-flowered; scales basifixed, 1.5-2.8 x 0.6-0.7 mm, 1-nerved, acute or 2-3-dentate at apex; bracts basifixed, 2.2-2.5 x 0.6-1.2 mm, 3-nerved, acute at apex; bracteoles 2, 0.5-2 x 0.2 mm, basifixed, subulate, 1-nerved, acute; pedicels

ascending, slender, 2-8 mm long, erect at anthesis as well as in fruit; calyx lobes unequal; upper lobe 1.8-5.5 x 2-3.5 mm (2.3-6.5 x 2.3-4 mm in fruit), ovate, acute or 2-3 dentate at apex; lower lobe 2.2-5.5 x 2-3.5 mm (3.3-6.5 x 3.2-3.5 mm in fruit), ovate-elliptic, acute or

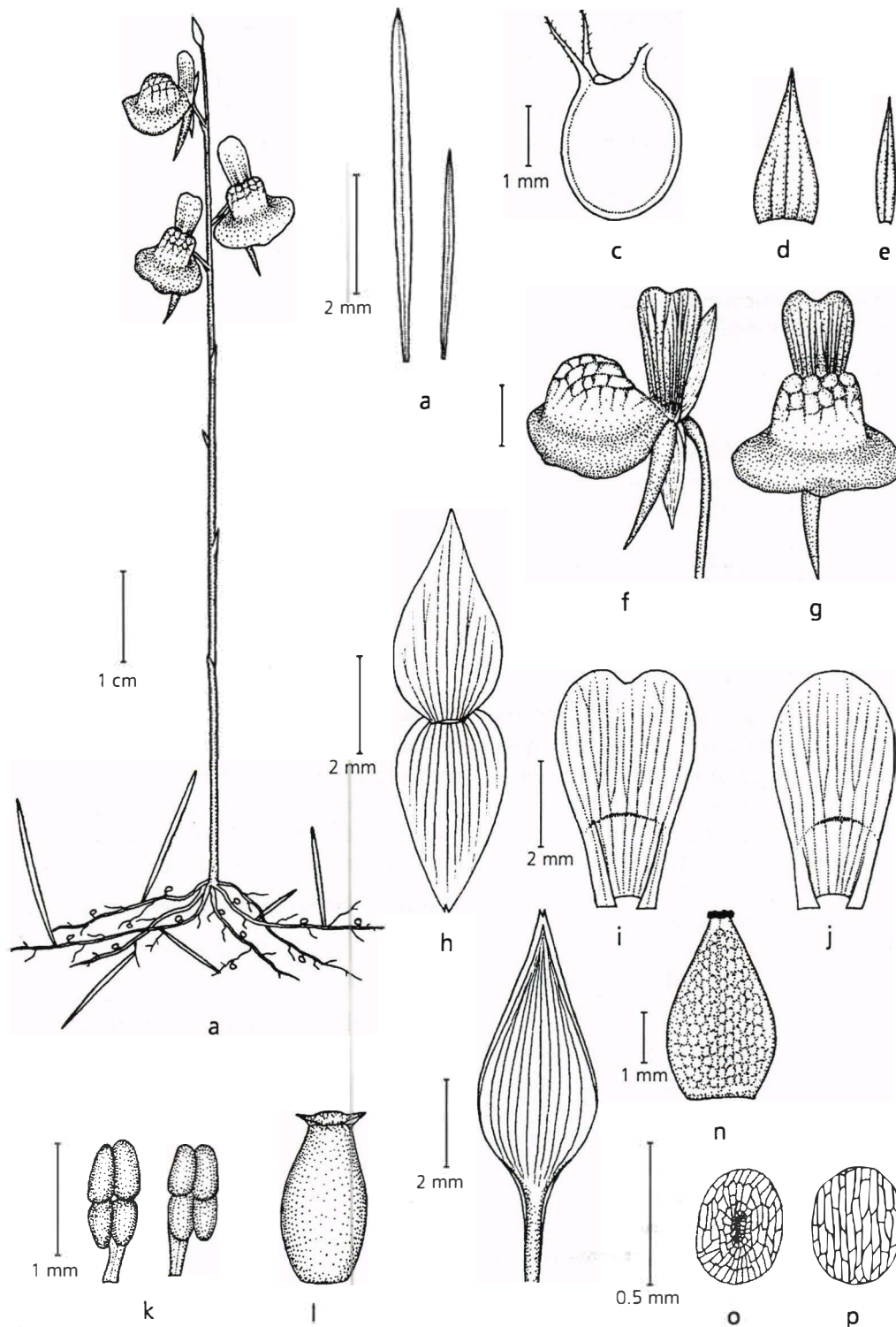


Figure 1. *Utricularia babui* Yadav, Sardesai et Gaikwad sp. nov. – a. Habit; b. Leaves; c. Bladder; d. Bract; e. Bracteole; f. Flower-lateral view; g. Flower-front view; h. Calyx; i. & j. Upper lip of corolla; k. Stamens; l. Pistil; m. Fruiting calyx; n. Capsule; o & p. Seeds.

2-3 dentate at apex; corolla blue-purple-pink; upper lip 4-6 x 2.5-3.5 mm, oblong, truncate, rounded or emarginate, slightly narrowed below; lower lip 3.5-7 x 2.5-7 mm, obovate, broadly circular, bigibbous at base, rounded or retuse at apex; spur 4-6.5 mm long, conical, slightly projecting upwards; stamens 2, 1.5-2 mm long; filaments strap shaped, slightly curved; anther thecae distinct; pistil 2-2.5 mm long, dorsally compressed; style short, distinct, flat; stigma 2-lipped, truncate at apex. *Capsules* 5-6 x 2.2-2.5 mm, ellipsoid, pouched at abaxial side, thickened along the dehiscent margin, dehiscent by ventral longitudinal slit; seeds ovoid-globose, 0.35-0.4 mm in diameter; testa reticulate, testa cells narrowly elongated, compact.

Etymology: This species is named after Professor C. R. Babu, Department of Botany, University of Delhi to honour his significant contributions in the field of Angiosperm Systematics and Ecology.

Flowering & Fruiting: Peak flowering from October to February extending up to April.

Habitat: It grows at an altitude of about 700-900 m in and along small streams in open places in the forests of Kolhapur district (Suleran, Ajra and Amba).

Taxonomical note: This species is a slender bladderwort closely allied to *U. graminifolia* Vahl but differs from it in having 1 nerved, linear-filiform leaves.

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