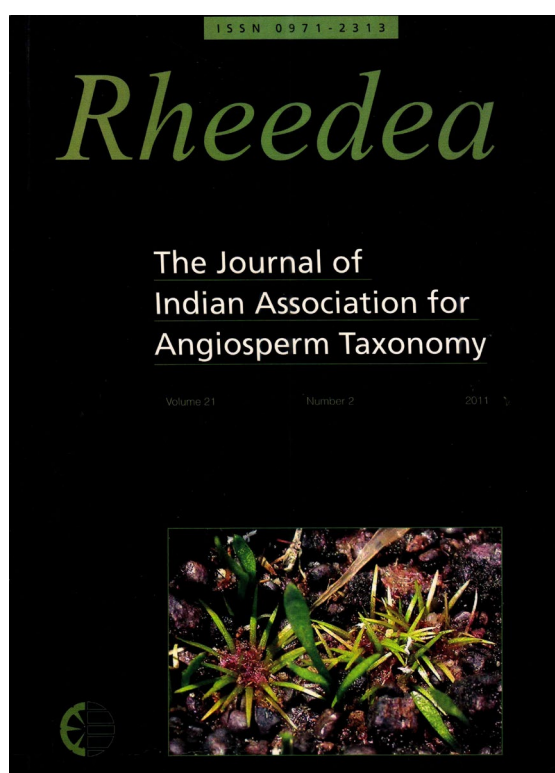




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# *Utricularia caerulea* (Lentibulariaceae): A new record to flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

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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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