THE NOMENCLATURAL TYPE OF *UTRICULARIA CAPILLACEA* WILLD. (LENTIBULARIACEAE)

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The original material associated with the validly published name, *Utricularia capillacea* Willd. is demonstrably distinct and can be critically identified for purpose of the precise application of the name of the taxon, *Utricularia capillacea*. Smith (1819), De Candolle (1844), Wight (1850), Trimen (1885), Clarke (1884), Hook. f. (1893-94) and Bhattacharyya (1990, 1999) treated this species in their accounts of the genus *Utricularia* L. Vahl (1804, [South India, Rottler *s.n.* in Hb. Vahl C !]) Wallich (1831-32, [EIC 6399 Iso. CAL !]), Arnott (Wight, 1850), Oliver (1859), Hook. f. (1860) misidentified it. Taylor (1978,1989) had not examined the actual specimen. Residential botanist, Robert Wight, collected and identified a South Indian specimen and labelled *Utricularia capillacea* Willd. in Hb. Madras (Clarke, p. 332, 1884). In those days, adequate diagnoses and illustrations of *Utricularia capillacea* Willd. and *Utricularia scandens* Benj. were not easily accessible and freely available. After the "Kew Rule" (as depicted in the Flora of British India), Clarke recognized (p. 332, 1884) it to be a *Utricularia wallichiana* Wight that was explicitly diagnosed (Wight, p.372, 1849; p.9.1850) and adequately illustrated(Wight, t. 1572-1, 1850). But later examination of the Willdenow type of *Utricularia capillacea* (Figs. I & II) has established (Bhattacharyya 1990 & 1999) that Benjamin's *U. scandens* (Fig. III, 1847) and Wight's *U. wallichii* (1849) and *U. wallichiana* (1850) are identical with the true *U. capillacea* Willd. (1797). To erase the problem of adequate diagnosis and proper illustrations of *U. capillacea* Willd., the author presents this short communication for the kind perusal of the users of the name. The precise application of the name of the taxon is as follows:-

Utricularia capillacea Willd., Sp. Pl.(ed. 4), 1: 113. 1797; Smith in Rees. Cyclopedia 37. 1819; A. DC. In DC. Prod. 8: 25 no 127. 1844. Type : India, *Heyne* (?) s. n. in Hb. Willd. (B-W !). **Figs.I & 4**

Utricularia scandens Benjamin, Linnaea 20: 309. 1847; Taylor, Kew Bull. 18: 46. 1964; Joseph & Joseph, Insectivorous Pl. Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, India. P. 30,

t. 14 (4,5), 15 (8), 1986. syn. nov. Type : India (Madras-Arcot), Chuter *s.n.* in Hb. Hook. K [CAL Neg. no.2423!]. **Figs.1 & 3**

Utricularia wallichii Wight, J. Bot. & Kew Gard. Misc. (Hooker) 1: 372. 1849. syn. nov. Type : India (Serra Mallay), *Wight s. n.* Oct. 1836 in Hb. Hook. K (CAL Neg. no.2406 A!). **Fig.2**

Utricularia wallichiana Wight, Ic. Pl. Indiae Orientalis 1: 9 no. 1572-1, 4: t 1572-1. 1850. (non Benj. Bot. Zeit. 213. 1845) syn. nov. Type : India (Nilghiri), *Wight s.n.* June, 1849 in Hb. Hook. (ex Hb. Wight) K [CAL Neg. no.2406 C!].

Willdenow (1797) clearly stated " *Utricularia*. Scape glabrous, thread like [pliable-capillaries], somewhat 3 flowered [subtrifloro -as the flowers (2) usually alternating with the narrow sterile bract], flowers nodding, capsule tapering from a narrow or moderately broad base to a very fine point.Watertube [rhizoid] hair like. Habitat in India, locality relating to springs of water (I have it in dried state). It was collected out of wet sandy soil."

Willdenow built up his own private herbarium and library with the help of a network of correspondents. In those days no one knew Himalayan plants. Evidently the specimen was collected in South India . Partly due to world wars and partly due to restrictions over the Willdenow collections (B - W), a few botanists have studied the type material in original The microfiche of this type no 453 is also very illegible. The author has an opportunity to study the Willdenow (B - W !) collection in original (Fig I). The Botanischer Garten U. Botanisches Museum had also produced enlarged micrograph of the type specimen (Fig.4) for the present author. Willdenow probably recived that specimen (holotype) from Heyne and dissected the terminal flower to ascertain the class Diandria, the order Monogynia and the genus *Utricularia* L.

Utricularia capillacea are readily distinguished by the terrestrial, twining, filiform, glabrous habit; flowers few, distinct, usually alternating with the narrow sterile bract; bract ovatus, basifixed, apex - "obtusus cum acumine "; pedicel indistinctly winged, shorter than the calyx, flexuous, spreading; calyx lobes slightly unequal, broadly ovate, decurrent, apex acute or shortly acuminate; [corolla yellow]; ovary laterally compressed, lenticular, completely enclosed in the persistent calyx.

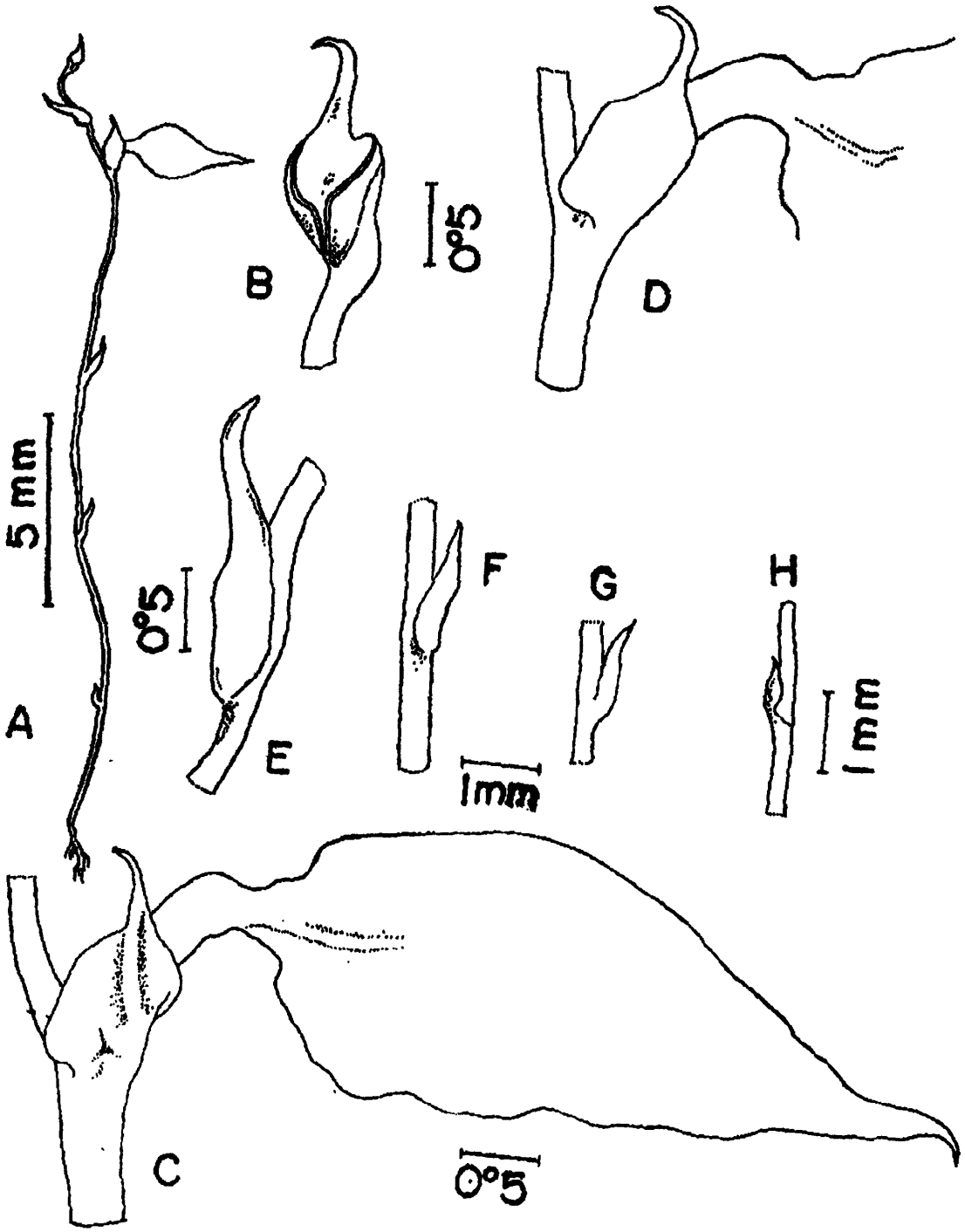
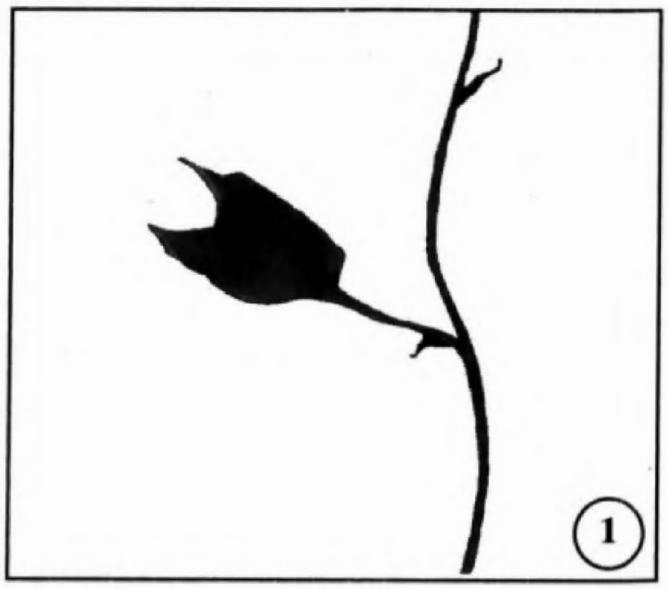
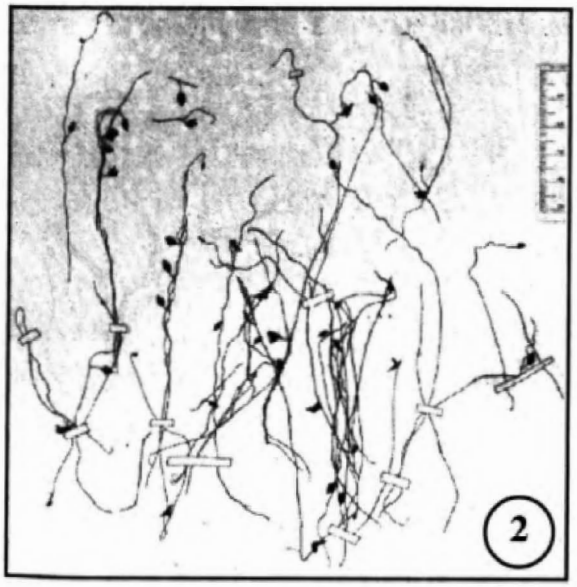
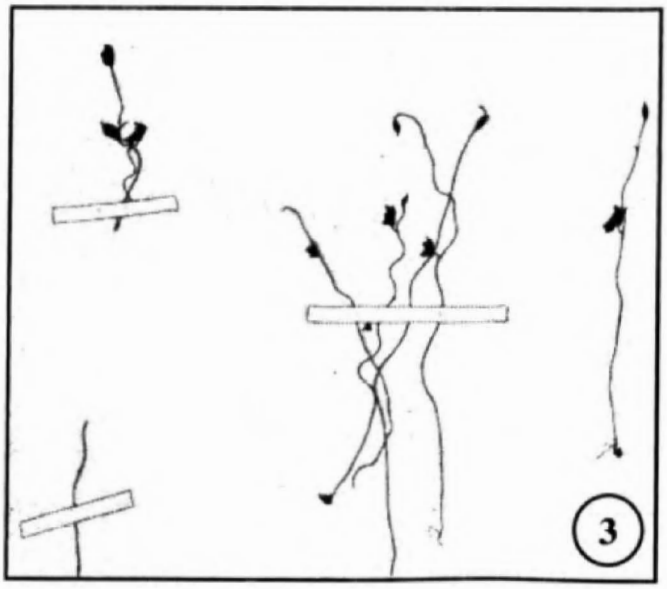


Fig.1.Line drawing of the holotype material of *Utricularia capillacea* Willd.
A. Flowering & fruiting plant; B,C,D. Scales on the inflorescence axis; E, F. Fertile bracts; B-G. Sterile bract from inflorescence axis; H. Fruiting calyx.







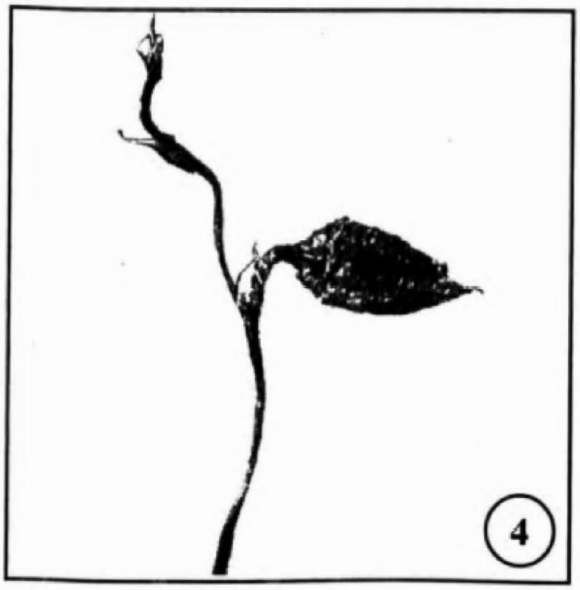


Fig. 1 : Photograph of a part of the holotype of *Utricularia scandens* Benj. (T. Arcot, Chuter *s.n.* in Hb. Hook. K) showing some crucial characters.

Fig. 2 : The holotype of *Utricularia wallichii* Wight, India, 1836.

Fig. 3 : The holotype of *Utricularia scandans* Benj.

Fig. 4 : Photograph of a part of the holotype of *U. capillacea* Willd. (B-W).

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