

## FRANKENIACEAE

瓣鳞花科 ban lin hua ke

Yang Qiner (杨亲二)<sup>1</sup>; Molly Whalen<sup>2</sup>

Herbs, subshrubs, or shrubs. Leaves simple, small, opposite, petiolate [or sessile], with salt glands; paired leaves united at base by sheathing margins; leaf blade flattened [to subterete], margin entire, slightly to gradually [to strongly] revolute. Flowers hermaphroditic [rarely unisexual], small, actinomorphic, sessile, subtended by [2 or]4 leaflike floral bracts, solitary or clustered in terminal or axillary, simple or compound dichasia (frequently with some monochasial branching). Calyx persistent, tubular, ribbed, [4 or]5[-7]-dentate. Petals [4 or]5[-7], free, imbricate, with spreading limb, clawed at base, with a scalelike appendage or ligule present [rarely absent] on adaxial face of claw. Stamens [3-]6[to many]; filaments free or slightly united at base; anthers 2-thecate, extrose, longitudinally dehiscent. Pistil 1, consisting of (1-3)(or 4) carpels; ovary superior, 1-loculed; ovules numerous on parietal placentas [to fewer, rarely 1]; style solitary, slender; style branches [1-]3[or 4], as many as carpels. Capsule included in persistent calyx, loculicidally dehiscent. Seeds [1 to] numerous, small; testa thinly crustaceous; embryo immersed in endosperm.

One genus and ca. 70 species: N and S Africa, C and SW Asia, Atlantic islands, Australia, Europe, North and South America; one species in China.

Zhang Pengyun & Zhang Yaojia. 1990. Frankeniaceae. In: Li Hsiwen, ed., Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 50(2): 139-141.

### 1. FRANKENIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 331. 1753.

瓣鳞花属 ban lin hua shu

*Hypericopsis* Boissier.

Morphological characters and geographic distribution are the same as those of the family.

#### 1. *Frankenia pulverulenta* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 332. 1753.

瓣鳞花 ban lin hua

Herbs annual. Stem prostrate, 6-16 cm, richly branched from base, sparsely white puberulous, hairs incurved. Petiole 1-2 mm; leaf blade narrowly obovate, obovate, or elliptic, sometimes orbicular on lower leaves, 2-7 × 1-2.5 mm, abaxially slightly powdery-puberulous, adaxially glabrous, base attenuate into a short petiole, apex obtuse or retuse. Flowers subtended by 4 leaflike floral bracts, borne in terminal or axillary dichasia, rarely solitary, with much of plant often composed of elongated compound dichasia in which branches often develop unequally. Calyx tube 2-3.5 × 1-1.5 mm, 5-ribbed; teeth 5, subulate, 0.5-1 mm. Petals 5, pink to violet, oblong-ob lanceolate, oblong-

obovate, or spatulate, 3-4(-5) × 0.7-1.4 mm, attenuate below middle, apex erose denticulate; ligule oblanceolate-elliptic. Stamens 6. Ovary with numerous ovules on 3 parietal placentas. Capsule oblong-ovoid, ca. 2 × 1 mm. Seeds numerous, golden brown, oblong-ellipsoid, 0.5-0.7 × ca. 0.3 mm, acute in lower part. Fl. and fr. May-Aug.  $2n = 20$ .

High-salinity grasslands of floodlands, by lakes, always on moist and slightly alkaline soils in desert regions; 1200-1500 m. Gansu (Minqin), W Nei Mongol (Ejin Qi), Xinjiang (Xinyuan) [Mongolia, Russia, Turkmenistan; N and S Africa, C and SW Asia, S Europe; introduced in Australia and the Americas].

*Frankenia pulverulenta* is listed as rare in China by Mao (in Fu & Jin, China Pl. Red Data Book 1: 310-311. 1992).

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 20 Nanxincun, Xiangshan, Beijing 100093, People's Republic of China.

<sup>2</sup> School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University of South Australia, G.P.O. Box 2100, Adelaide, South Australia 5001, Australia.