

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).

