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## FRANKENIA PULVERULENTA L. (FRANKENIACEAE) ADDITION TO PUNJAB, INDIA PLANTS CHECKLIST (SHARMA, 1990)

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### ABSTRACT

An angiosperm species (*Frankenia pulverulenta* L.) member of family Frankeniaceae is recorded first time from the state of Punjab, India during year 2021, 2022 and 2023. Plant species is identified on the basis of morphological characters such as stem, leaf, flower, stamens, stigma, fruit etc. This study will be useful for scientists for identification and updated information about floral diversity of the state.

**Keywords :** *Frankenia pulverulenta*, Taxonomy, Punjab, Morphology, Faridkot, Plant, Angiosperm.

### Introduction

Genus *Frankenia* is a member of family Frankeniaceae with about 90 species (Wholen, 1987). It is commonly called Sea Heath or Millah and Native to Western Hemisphere (Al-Tameme, 2016). Lawrence (1951) suggested Frankeniaceae is a small family with less number of genera occurs on all continents except Mediterranean region.

*Frankenia pulverulenta* L. is endemic to North Africa (Ozeda, 1991). It is highly medicinal plant due presence of valuable chemical compounds (Al-Tameme, 2016). According to Youssef (2013), this plant possess analgesic and carminative properties.

A checklist of plant species from the state of Punjab was compiled by Sharma (1990). Information about occurrence of *Frankenia pulverulenta* from the state is not known. Keeping this in view, present study was conducted.

### Materials and Methods

#### Study area

Punjab state is a present in northern part of the India. It an agriculture rich state. Present study was conducted in District Faridkot, Punjab, India during 2021, 2022 and 2023. Plant species collected from waste places as a weed.

#### Taxonomic identification

Morphological characters (stem, leaf, sepals, petals, stamens, stigma etc.) were considered for identification. After examination of morphological features, available

literature (Hooker, 1875; Bamber, 1916; Webb, 1966; Townsend, 1980; Sharma and Balakrishna, 1993; Salama *et al.*, 1999; Al-Oudat and Qadir, 2011; AbulFatih *et al.*, 2002; Youcef *et al.*, 2012 and Al-Tameme, 2016) was used for authentication of species.

### Results and Discussion

*Frankenia pulverulenta* L. is an annual and prostrate herb. Stem is hairy and green to reddish green. Leaves are petiolated, narrow, obovate to elliptic, 3-8 mm long, 1-2 mm broad and green. Flowers are terminal or axillary, bisexual. Sepals-5, 2-4 mm long, 0.8-1.5 mm broad, green. Petals-5, violet or light blue, oblong, 3-5 mm long, 1-1.5 mm broad. Stamens-6, yellow, free, filament 1.5-2 mm long. Style-1, 1-1.5 mm long, stigma-3. Capsule 1-2 mm long. Seeds small, brown to black in color (Fig. 1.).

**Phenology-** Flowering and Fruiting occurs from November to April.

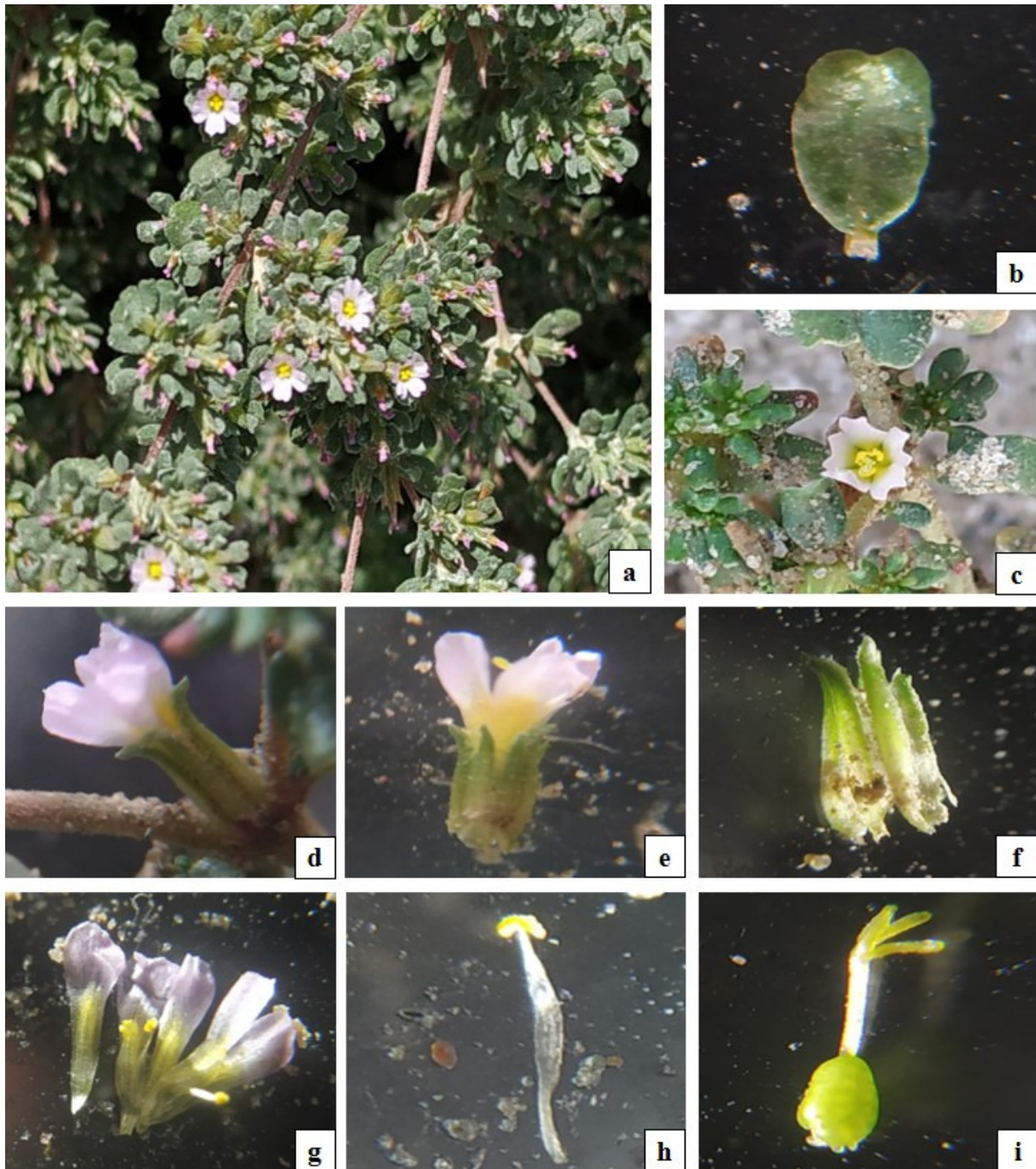
#### Synonyms

*Franca nodiflora* Vis.  
*Franca pulverulenta* Vis.  
*Frankenia canescens* C.Presl  
*Frankenia cespitosa* Lowe  
*Frankenia densa* Pohnert  
*Frankenia intermedia* Costa  
*Frankenia nodiflora* Lam.  
*Frankenia pampeana* Speg.

Previously, Sharma (1990) worked on floristic diversity of the state of Punjab, India from the year 1963 and compiled a checklist about the occurrence of total number of plant species from the state. But *Frankenia pulverulenta* L. was not documented by him. Therefore, this plant species as addition to the angiosperm flora of the state of Punjab.

### Conclusion

*Frankenia pulverulenta* L. is an angiosperm species reported first time from Punjab, India. It is an addition to the occurrence of plant species from the state. This study will be valuable for scientific communities of the globe.



**Fig.1. (a-i) :** a- Habit; b-Leaf; c-Flower; d- Position of Flower; e- Flower; f- Sepals; g- Petals; h- Androecium; i- Gynoecium.

### Author's contribution

Rai Singh collected data and prepare manuscript. Varinder Sharma suggested some changes. Present Manuscript finalized by Rai Singh.

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