

***Aerva lanata* A. L. Juss. ex Schultes**



Habit: Herb

Morphology: Erect or prostrate with a long tap-root, branched from near the base; branches many, pubescent or woolly- tomentose, striate. Leaves alternate, 2-2 × 1-1.6 cm on the main stem, 6-10 × 5-6 mm on the branches, elliptic or obovate, or suborbicular, obtuse or acute, entire, pubescent above, more or less white with cottony hairs beneath; petioles 3-6 mm long, often obscure. Flowers greenish white, very small, sessile, often bisexual, in small dense subsessile axillary heads or spikes 6-13 mm long, often closely crowded and forming globose clusters; bracteoles 1.25 mm, long, membranous, broadly ovate, concave, apiculate. Perianth 1.5-1.25 mm long; sepals' oblong, obtuse, sometimes apiculate, silky-hairy on the back. Utricle broadly ovoid, acute; stigmas two, seed 0.85 mm in diameter, smooth and polished, black.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Magnoliopsida
Order	Caryophyllales
Family	Amaranthaceae
Genus	<i>Aerva</i>
Species	<i>Aerva lanata</i> A. L. Juss. ex Schultes

Uses: *Aerva lanata* is commonly described in Ayurveda as a diuretic with anti-inflammatory, antihelminthic, anti-bacterial and mild analgesic effects. It is used in the treatment of lithiasis, cough, asthma, and headache and as an antidote for rat poisoning.

Reference: Indian Biodiversity Portal, NCBI