



## *Acanthus mollis*

### **Common Name(s):**

bear's breeches

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Usually found near old settlements, in partial shade and along riverbanks.

### **Features:**

Perennial herb to about 120 cm, with thick roots. Petiole usually 10-50 cm on leaves arising from the root crown, much shorter (2-5 cm) on leaves arising from vertical stem. Leaves variable, but usually dark green and with several lobes. White flowers with pink, purple or brownish veins are produced on the central tall spike, these mature first at the bottom of the spike. Seeds are produced in individual capsules 3-4 cm long.

### **Flowering:**

October, November,  
December, January,  
February, March, April

### **Fruiting:**

November, December,  
January, February,  
March, April, May

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2435](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2435)



**Caption:** Developing fruit. Whanganui. Feb 2013.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle



**Caption:** Mature fruit. Whanganui. Feb 2013.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle