



## *Echium vulgare*

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

viper's bugloss

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

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Terrestrial. Short tussock grassland, herbfield, bare land, riverbeds, usually in dry, low fertility inland areas.

### **Features:**

Densely bristly annual or biennial herb to 50-90 cm high. Deep taproot. Stems stiff, erect, covered in reddish bristly hairs, with many short branches. Basal rosette leaves to 15 x 5 cm, narrow, stiffly bristly, harsh to touch. Stem leaves much smaller, alternate, also rough. Flowers funnel-shaped, 5- petalled, 12-18 mm long, pink in bud, becoming vivid blue (rarely remaining pink or white), 4 long stamens protruding and 1 smaller inside flower; in tapering spike-like heads, Nov-Jan. Seeds 4- angled, egg-shaped, 2 mm long.

### **Flowering:**

November, December, January

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

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=3851](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3851)



**Caption:** Mackenzie Basin  
**Photographer:** Jane Gosden



**Caption:** Mackenzie Basin  
**Photographer:** Jane Gosden