

*Echium candicans* L. f., PRIDE OF MADEIRA. Shrub, evergreen, initially rosettelike, with ascending to spreading branches, later with branches arising beneath each inflorescence and then potentially further down the shoot, in range 80–170 cm tall; shoots individually resembling a rosette with closely spaced, silvery and bluish green, willowlike cauline leaves, when young soft-hairy to velveteen aging stiff-hairy and scabrous, villous, strigose, and short-hairy, the longer hairs bulbous at base, lacking glandular hairs. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 10 mm thick on new growth, light green, with 2 faint ridges descending from each leaf, initially internodes short but increasing as the shoot matures, densely short-hairy; older leafless stems with conspicuous, horizontal leaf scars  $\pm$  crescent-shaped aging larger and crescent to lens-shaped; woody lower stem with wide, firm, brown pith and covered with light gray bark alternating with cinnamon brown where splitting. **Leaves:** helically alternate (subopposite), simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole hemicylindric, to 25 mm long, flaring at base; blade narrowly elliptic to narrowly lanceolate, (25–)80–215  $\times$  (5–)11–45 mm, long-tapered at base, entire, long-tapered at tip, conspicuously pinnately veined with ascending lateral veins and principal veins sunken slightly on upper surface and strongly raised on lower surface, villous and strigose. **Inflorescence:** dense panicle, terminal of many spikelike cymes, initially lanceoloid to narrowly ovoid, fully expanded cylindric, 250–400 mm long, to 150 mm diameter, the cyme branches several–many, each  $> 50$ -flowered, 1-sided with ascending to erect flowers in 2 rows on upper side, coiled and curved under at tip (scorpioid), flowers maturing base to tip, densely hairy like stem aging  $\pm$  hispid and scabrous; bract subtending lateral branch lanceolate, leaflike, 3–10 mm long; flowers densely packed along rachis at anthesis, later with wider spacing; bractlets absent; pedicel at anthesis short increasing to 1 mm in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual,  $\pm$  radial, 7–8 mm across; **calyx** 4–5-lobed, fused only at base, if 4-lobed typically with gap on upper-inner side of flower; tube ca. 0.5 mm long increasing 2 $\times$  in fruit; lobes ascending, unequal, narrowly triangular to ovate, 4–4.5  $\times$  0.4–1.5 mm, with raised, often purplish midvein on outer surface, outer surface stiff-hairy with hair bases aging white and wartlike, inner surface with appressed hairs; **corolla** 5-lobed, bell-shaped, 7–8 mm long, blue; in bud  $\pm$  short-strigose on sectors not touched by calyx and with 5 vertical dimples hidden by calyx lobes (not evident at anthesis) alternating with 5 low ribs on throat leading into lobes; tube 1–1.5 mm long, whitish, internally around base with a rim of fleshy, tonguelike scales to 0.4 mm long next to ovary; throat slightly flaring, internally lacking appendages or glands associated with stamens; lobes somewhat spreading, subequal, rounded deltate, 2.2–3.4 mm long, with rib appearing as a lighter midstripe; **stamens** 5, fused at different levels from top of corolla tube to lower throat; filaments arising 1.5–3 mm from corolla base, on portion fused to corolla whitish and often angular, free portion cylindric, 10.5–12 mm long, light purple, glabrous; anthers versatile, dithecal, 0.7–0.8 mm long, purplish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale grayish violet; **nectary** = thick rim of cells surrounding ovary below midpoint, producing nectar generally covering ovary; **pistil** 1, on disclike platform (gynobase); ovary superior, distinctly 4-lobed, 1 mm across, glossy green, with smooth, hemispheric lobes, each chamber with 1 ovule; style arising from ovary base in center between lobes, exerted to level of anthers, cylindric, to 20 mm long, whitish and glabrous at base but mostly pink to lavender, pilose to above midpoint, 2-branched for 0.5 mm at tip, the stigmatic branches ascending, unequal. **Fruits:** 4 nutlets, firmly and broadly attached to base of pistil and

remaining within calyx; nutlets pointed pyramidal to wedge-shaped, 2–3 mm long and wide, brown-black, ornate with projecting short spines and warts (tuberculate) on outer sides; scar triangular; persistent calyx lobes 11–14 mm long. Mid-February–summer.

Naturalized. Shrub cultivated widely in region and to date observed escaped at several locations not far from homes, either along roadsides or bordering a creek bed. *Echium candicans*, originally a native of the Canary Islands, has attractive, somewhat silvery hairy leaves with conspicuous pinnate venation and typically long, dense inflorescences of blue flowers. This shrub cannot be confused with other wild species, but there is variability in the horticultural forms, and breeding has also added other features that may be expected in escaped specimens.

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