

## *Heliotropium amplexicaule*

### **Common name:**

Blue heliotrope,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Toxic to horses, pigs, cattle, and to a lesser extent, sheep.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Chronic weight loss,
- . Acute jaundice,
- . Photosensitisation,
- . Copper toxicity.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Acute or chronic liver damage,
- . Ill thrift, from diarrhoea.
- . Young animals are more susceptible.

#### *Treatment;*

- . None.
- . Remove from affected paddocks.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Cultivate in spring to kill seedlings.
- . Herbicides.
- . Pasture improvement with perennials.
- . Declared a “Noxious Weed” in parts of NSW.

### **Comments:**

- . Perennial, prostrate herb, with a deep taproot, and rhizomes.

- . Leaves are hairy, oblong, alternate, dull green, and stalkless, with the leaf base clasping the stem, tapering at both ends.
- . Flowers in long branched cymes, purple or lilac, with a yellow throat, spring to autumn.
- . A wide spread weed, found on roadsides, and in pastures.
- . An aggressive colonizer of heavily grazed pasture.
- . Shallow cultivation tends to spread the plant further.
- . Native of South America.
- . Found in NSW, Queensland, Victoria and SA.



Picture: *Heliotropium amplexicaule*  
ento.csiro.au

### **Further Reading:**

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.
- . Herbicides – AGDEX 647, NSW Dept Ag,
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Scheffe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Queensland. 1995.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 1992.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.