

# Elephantopus mollis

## Elephantsfoot

*Elephantopus mollis* Kunth

Family: Asteraceae

**Description:** Tough herb, to 5 ft tall but usually shorter. Leaves 8 inches long by 3 inches wide, alternate, clasping stem, upper surface darker than lower; lower covered with fine hairs, margins slightly scalloped. Flower heads in terminal clusters, bracts triangular, flowers white to pink. Fruit an achene, 1 inch long. Greek: *elephas*, elephant; *pous*, foot; the low-growing plant in rosette stage is said to resemble the footprint of an elephant<sup>(70)</sup>; *mollis*, with soft hairs<sup>(69)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Pantropical origin. Found in mesic to wet areas in pastures, forest roads, and other non-crop-lands on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i. First collection on Kaua'i in 1926<sup>(70)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Displaces forages in pastures.

**Management:** *E. spicatus* was sensitive to picloram and dicamba, moderately so to triclopyr and metsulfuron.

