Barleria strigosa Willd.

**Family:**
Acanthaceae

Willdenow, C.L. von (1800) *Species Plantarum Edn. 4* 3(1): 379. Type: India.

**Common name:**
Barleria

**Stem**
Stems swollen immediately above point of leaf attachment. Stems with appressed, light brown simple hairs. Leafy stems with green stripes extending from top of swelling to next node.

**Leaves**
Leaves up to 13 cm x 6 cm. Interpetiolar ridge could be mistaken for a stipular scar.

**Flowers**
Flowers in congested axillary spikes, often appearing terminal. Flowers emerging only one or two at a time. Each flower subtended by a single leaf-like bract. Calyx comprising two unequal pairs of segments; the outer pair 18-33 mm long x 7 - 22 mm wide with finely toothed margins, the inner pair narrow with entire margins. Corolla two-lipped, upper comprising four +/- equal lobes, the lower lip undivided. Corolla mauve or bluish-mauve, floral tube white. Carpels partially enclosed by lobed disc. Fertile stamens 4, exserted from floral tube, 2 reduced stamens deep within floral tube. Anthers grey.

**Fruit**
Capsule somewhat ovoid, acuminate, 1-2 seeds on conspicuous hooks.

**Seedlings**
Not available.

**Distribution and Ecology**
An introduced species becoming naturalised in NEQ and CEQ, especially between Cooktown and Cairns.

**RFK Code**
4307