

*Hardenbergia violacea*

Native sarsaparilla, false sarsaparilla vine

Perennial with twining or prostrate stems to 2m long. Stipules 3-4mm long, triangular, persistent, more or less adpressed, or spreading. Leaves with a single leaflet. Petiole 5-30mm long. Stipels 1-2mm long. Leaflets leathery, dark green above, grey-green beneath, with well-marked venation, 30-120mm long, 10-50mm wide, broadest towards the broadly rounded or slightly indented base, the margins tapering to the rounded, mucronate tip, or sometimes broadest about the mid-point, hairless.

Inflorescence an axillary raceme 60-200mm long, including the 15-60mm peduncle, rarely branched. Flowers borne in pairs within the axil of a narrow deciduous bract, each on a 5-7mm pedicel. Calyx 3-4mm long, hairless, the two dorsal sepals joined almost to the tip, the sepals otherwise joined for c.  $\frac{2}{3}$  their length. Standard violet-purple with two white "eyes" at the base, c. 5-7mm tall and wide. Wings c. 8mm long from base of calyx, violet-purple, c. 2mm longer than the violet-purple keel.

Pod 35-50mm long, c. 8mm wide, flattened, hairless, very dark brown or almost black when ripe, containing 4-8 seeds. Seeds c. 4.5mm long, 2.5-3mm wide, kidney-shaped, olive-green to dark



*Hardenbergia violacea*, Brisbane, 27°28' S, 152°57' E.

brown, bearing a prominent biscuit-coloured strophiole.

*Distribution:* Bur., Co., D.D., Lei., Mo., P.C., S.K., W.B. Also N.S.W., Vic., Tas., S.A.

*Notes:* May cause a colic-like condition in horses. Unlikely to be palatable. Roots have been used as food by Aborigines. Nodulates, self-pollinating. White-flowered forms also occur. Sometimes cultivated as a garden ornamental.

*References:* 3, 23, 26, 41, 50, 97, 98, 100, 111, 131, 154, 158, 192, 196, 225, 287, 331, 337; as *H. monophylla*, 17, 38, 40, 311, 313, 316, 324.

*Hedysarum*

Perennial herb with pinnate leaves with terminal leaflets, no stipels. Flowers reddish purple, in dense heads. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style hairless.

*Hedysarum coronarium*

Soola clover, French honeysuckle

Perennial herb to c. 1m tall. Stems very sparsely hairy to hairless. Stipules 8-11mm long, broad below but tapering to a fine point, persistent. Leaves with 5-11 leaflets, the pairs opposite or almost opposite. Petiole 5-140mm long, rachis 45-120mm long. Leaflets 15-35mm long, 10-25mm wide, broadest about the mid-point, the margins curving to the broadly angled base and broadly rounded minutely mucronate tip, hairless on the upper surface, covered with adpressed hairs on the lower surface

Inflorescence an axillary raceme, the peduncle 40-90mm long, the rachis 20-50mm long. Flowers crowded, borne within the axils of c. 4mm persistent bracts, each on a c. 1mm pedicel which

bears narrow bracteoles at the tip. Calyx c. 6mm long, the sepals joined for less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  their length, the teeth hairy, narrowing abruptly and tapering to fine points. Petals reddish purple, all 12-17mm long from base of calyx.

Pod up to 10mm long, consisting of 2-4 minutely spiny articles, breaking up at maturity.

*Distribution:* Mo. Also W.A., Tas. A native of the Mediterranean region rarely naturalized in south-east Queensland.

*Notes:* A palatable species which has been used as a pasture species in southern states. Has shown some promise on the Darling Downs. Adapted to alkaline soils. A source of honey in southern Europe. Cross-pollinating, nodulates.

*References:* 3, 121, 287.