

# *Hardenbergia violacea* (Schneev.) Stearn

Family:  
**Fabaceae**

Stearn, W.T. (1940) *The Journal of Botany* 78: 70.

**Common name:**

Climbing Morning Glory; Purple Twining Pea; Sarsaparilla, Native; Native Sarsaparilla; Sarsaparilla, False; False Sarsaparilla; Native Woodrose; Sarsaparilla; Pea, Purple Coral; Purple Coral Pea; Pea, Purple Twining

**Stem**

A slender vine not exceeding a stem diameter of 2 cm.

**Leaves**

Leaf blades about 5-5.5 x 2-2.5 cm, petioles about 1.5-2.5 cm long. Stipules triangular, glabrous, up to 4 x 1 mm.

**Flowers**

Calyx tube about 3 mm long, the lobes about 1 mm long except for one pair which are fused together almost completely. Petals: standard about 9 x 10-11 mm, mainly purple except for a green 'eye' near the base; wings about 8 x 3 mm; keel about 6 x 2 mm. Stamens 10, one stamen free from the rest which are fused together by their filaments to form a tube 3-4 mm long while the upper sections of the filaments remain free. Ovary about 3-3.5 mm long. Ovules five to seven.

**Fruit**

Fruits about 40 x 9 mm. Seeds about 4 x 1.5 mm. Testa mottled brown in colour. Hilum pale brown.

**Seedlings**

Features not available.

**Distribution and Ecology**

Occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards to Tasmania and South Australia. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 900-1200 m. Usually grows in open forest or wet sclerophyll forest, sometimes in rain forest margins or in disturbed areas of mountain rain forest. Also occurs in New Guinea (?)

**Natural History & Notes**

F.M. Bailey, then Colonial Botanist of Queensland, wrote that the bushmen of that State used *Hardenbergia* and considered it a valuable medicine. Maiden, however, described its virtues as purely imaginary. Cribb (1981).

May cause a colic-like condition in horses. Unlikely to be palatable. Roots have been used as food by Aborigines. Sometimes cultivated as a garden ornamental. Hacker (1990).

**Synonyms**

*Glycine violacea* Schneev., *Icones Plantarum Rariorum* 1: 29(1781), Type: Locus natalis. Nec de huius vero loco natali certiores sumus. Videtur vero ex eadem patria advenisse. [G. rubicunda Schneev.].

**RFK Code**

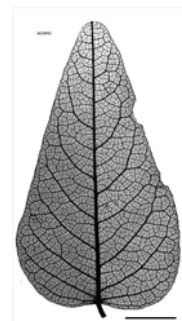
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Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

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