

HEDYSARUM CORONARIUMKatie Mays

Have you seen this beautiful roadside plant? With its bright deep pink, almost red flowers it is very conspicuous. I first saw it on busy State Highway 1, 1km south of Mercer on 4 October. Growing outside a crash barrier above the Waikato River it was rooted in sandy soil and looked like a giant vetch.

Alan Esler supplied me with information and I found it is called sulla, Italian sainfoin or French honeysuckle, Hedysarum coronarium. This handsome legume is being used for the revegetation of roadsides disturbed by road building machines and should appear with increasing frequency. It has many other uses and can be used for forage and hay making and is attractive to bees.



Sulla, Italian sainfoin.  
Hedysarum coronarium.