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Hedysarum coronarium

FRENCH HONEYSUCKLE is an annual, biennial or perennial. Native to tropical south-eastern Asia (especially India), it has small pea-like, bright red flowers often clover-scented.

It is also known as *Espercet* (Spanish), Italian sainfoin, *Kopyšník věncový* (Czech), Maltese clover, Red satin flower, *Rosenväppling* (Swedish), *Silla* (Maltese), Soola, Spanish espercette, Sulla (English, French, Italian), and Sulla-clover.

Coronarium is derived from Latin *corona* (crown) meaning ‘of garlands or an ingredient in garlands, or crowned’.

The flowers are sometimes woven into garlands, and in southern Europe children have picked them to suck the sweet nectar.

In Italy French honeysuckle has provided a forage crop for cattle, and in Australia it is grown for green fodder.