



Woolf Orchid Culture

The Genus *Sarcochilus* in Australia

by John Woolf

A Brief summary of some of the Species used in today's hybrids.

Sarcochilus australis - collected by R. Gunn in 1833

Distributed from Tasmania to central New South Wales. Found growing on tree trunks and branches and on small shrubs, normally in very moist and cold areas. Flowering in September in New South Wales to December in Victoria/Tasmania. Can be difficult to maintain in collections. Has two main colour variations, green and purplish brown.

Sarcochilus ceciliae F. Muell. -collected by E. Bowman in 1865

Distributed from central New South Wales to Townsville in north Queensland. Grows mainly on rocks and cliff faces from open sunny positions to dense shade, often surviving summer bushfires. Colours range from alba to deep purple, and has several different forms, var *roseus* from North Queensland, 'Gladstone form' from Central Queensland, 'Small Form' from Southern Queensland and the 'Southern Form' from central New South Wales. Flowering period is October to February.

Sarcochilus dilatatus F. Muell - collected by W. Hill in 1859

Distributed from central New South Wales to central Queensland. Flowers from October to January. Grows in semi-dry to dry scrub in association with *s. hillii*, *Dendrobium cucumerinum* and *D. mortii* (syn. *D. bowmannii*) . Colour of blooms is normally orange brown. Requires cool winter and hot summer temperatures.

Sarcochilus falcatus R. Br. - collected by R. Brown in 1804

Distributed from Victoria to north Queensland. In eastern Victoria, flowers are seen in October/November and October in New South Wales, July/August in north Queensland. Colour is normally glistening white with occasionally creamy yellow, apricot and pink clones. Grows mostly on tree trunks and limbs from full sun to heavy shade in rainforest areas.

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii F. Muell - collected by R. D. Fitzgerald in 1870

Distributed from central New South Wales to southern Queensland usually in dense shade in ravines or hillsides. Grows mostly on rocks. Flower colour varies from pure white, through red centred, heavily blotched to pure red forms. Flowers from October to December and is usually grown into massive specimens.

Sarcochilus hartmannii F. Muell - collected by C. H. Hartmann in 1874

Distributed from central New South Wales to southern Queensland, growing mainly in crevices on cliff faces. There are four main types: 'Northern Form' found along the inland range from Toowoomba south, the 'Mt Lindsay/Numinbah Valley Form', the 'Blue Knob Form' and the 'Southern Form', Flowering period for 'Southern Form' is July-August and the 'Northern Form', late September-November. Colour is pure white to white with red centre with the 'Southern Form' creamy yellow.



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Sarcochilus hillii (f. Muell) - collected by W. Hill in 1860

Distributed from southern New South Wales to central Queensland. Flower colour is soft pink. Grows mainly on small shrubs although it has been found on plantation pine trees. Flowering period is from September to January.

Sarcochilus moorei (H. G. Reichb.) - collected by C. Moore 1880

Habitat is the far North Queensland rain forests. Usually found in moist shady areas. Colour of blooms is pale yellow or cream, heavily spotted with red-brown. Flowers appear over a lengthy period from around June to November, however can bloom at any time.

Sarcochilus olivaceus Lindley. - collected in 1838

Found almost throughout the eastern ranges from northern Victoria to Cape York. Flower colours are bright apple green to golden brown. Around Toowoomba there can be a marked difference in the size of the blooms. This species grows on almost any tree or shrub and appears in very large numbers when conditions suit.

Sarcochilus serrulatus D. Jones - collected in 1972 by D. L. Jones, R.D. Collins and B. Gray

Very uncommon. Grows in rain forests and moist tableland forest in north Queensland. Flowers appear from August to November and are reddish or pinkish brown in colour. This species requires heavy shade and a moist buoyant atmosphere at all times and should be kept reasonably cool.

Sarcochilus spathulatus R. Rogers - collected by H. Curtis in 1925

Found growing on small shrubs, although it can be found on plantation Hoop Pine from central New South Wales to southern Queensland. Flowers appear from August to November and occur in shades of green, fawn to a dark brownish green.

Sarcochilus weinthalii Bailey - originally collected by F. A. Weinthal in 1903

Has a rather limited distribution. Found in northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland. Grows amongst the leaves on the ends of branches of small shrubs and small trees, very rarely on tree trunks. The heavily spotted blooms appear in profusion from August to October. Colours range from creamy green to bone with golden brown to dark indigo spotting.

Pteroceras hirticalcar (Dockrill) - collected by M. Brown in 1966

Habitat is restricted to far northern Queensland, and flowering period is between October and December. Colour of flowers range from a tan to golden yellow. Usually edged with dark orange brown. Grows mainly on trees and small shrubs in moist rain forests. Heavy shade is required.

Plectorrhiza tridentata (Lindley)

Grows commonly as vast mats. Distributed from northern Victoria to north Queensland, growing on small shrubs in dry scrub to moist rain forests. Flowering period various, mainly spring and summer. Colour of blooms range from apple green to almost black.



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Rhinerrhiza divitiflora (F. Muell ex. Benth.)

Grows in open forest to rainforest areas, normally low on trunks of small or large trees. This species grows into large plants carrying several long racemes of large starry cream flowers spotted and barred with deep golden orange. Flowers appear from September to November and are short lived, usually lasting for only 2 days. If kept cool, the flowers will last around 5 days.

BREEDING WITH SARCOCHILUS

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii imparts qualities such as colour, size and floriferousness to it's progeny. Excellent for intensifying the "Red Eye" and producing spotting and intense reds.

The parents

S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC

By far the best natural red *Sarcochilus*, some times solid red at other times some white mottling. When selfed has produced results superior to itself and when used with the *aemulus* forms produces extremely fine dark, spotted and blotched progeny.

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii '75c'

This is the largest *S. fitzgeraldii* yet seen, white with a light mauve centre and as yet we have not flowered any progeny although we assume it will carry the same traits as '50c'.

S. fitzgeraldii '50c'

The second largest of the *S. fitzgeraldii*, well over the size of a 50 cent coin(30cm), passes its size on to its progeny and appears to be colour recessive when used with *alba* clones.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Red Eye'

Very fine shape with a very dark blood red central eye that covers almost half the flower. This colour is passed on freely and has produced the finest *Fitzharts* yet seen.

S. fitzgeraldii 'The Clown'

Superb shape and heavily marked with purple spotting and has purple edging around all segments.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Cara' HCC/AOC-VOC

Another superb clone, fine shape but with a lighter red-purple centre.

The seedlings

Selfings of *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC, have produced:

S. fitzgeraldii 'Pinatubo'

Superb colouration, dark red centre with suffusion and spotting.



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S. fitzgeraldii 'Sister'

This fine clone also carries superb colour, deep red with white mottling.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Claret' AD/AOC-VOC

This clone carries full red colour and the bright yellow labellum makes a delightful contrast.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Red Sky'

Another full red clone, also with the contrasting bright yellow labellum.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Red Star'

Here we have a misfit. Three beautiful dark red sepals and three labellums each bloom on the raceme was identical.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Oddball'

Another clone that has flowered consistently, with the same 'splash petal'. Three sepals and the petals are modified labellums.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Dolly's Delight'

By far the best shape and colour, a marked improvement on the clone 'Lorraine'.

From the crossing of S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' x S. fitzgeraldii 'Good Pink'. This cross has produced superb colour variations.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Rainbow'

Beautifully marked, when these plants grow into specimens they will be superb.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Raspberry Ripple'

Very delightful colour, this is my pick of this crossing that flowered in 1992.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Fireball'

Darker colour and heavier spotting and blotching with a dark red center.

From the crossing S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' x S. fitzgeraldii 'Red' = S. fitzgeraldii 'Ken's Rainbow', those flowered so far are similar to (S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' x S. fitzgeraldii 'Good Pink'), all of a very high standard.

From the crossing of S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' x S. fitzgeraldii '50c'

S. fitzgeraldii 'Dolly'

These are very large, bigger in size than the '50c' parent, have a good deep purple centre.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Leanne'

Again large flower but with a lighter centre.

S. fitzgeraldii 'Edith'

Large again with lovely colour.



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S. fitzgeraldii 'Violet Preston'

The darkest so far, a vivid dark violet purple centre.

There are many other fine seedlings as well as these. As you can see the quality of these seedlings is superb.

Sarcochilus hartmannii imparts full shape, floriferousness, solid substance and glistening texture to it's progeny. Some clones inhibit colour transmission, the new yellow & gold centred clones have opened another avenue for breeders.

The Parents

S. hartmannii 'Numinbah Valley Form'

Shows the popular red centre that makes this form so attractive.

S. hartmannii 'Florafest'

An extremely fine 'Blue Knob' form, with a large flower of good shape.

S. hartmannii 'Andrew'

A very large 'Blue Knob' well formed and very flat.

S. hartmannii 'Cara'

Truly a superb *S. hartmannii*. Flower is a little small in size, but has great shape. The racemes are very thick and strongly upright.

The seedlings:

S. hartmannii 'Red Sun' (*S. hartmannii* 'Red Brown' x *S. hartmannii* 'Red Snow') This clone has a very solid red centre to the flower and is the best shape we have seen.

S. hartmannii 'Purity'

This flower has great shape and is almost pure, glistening white.

S. hartmannii 'Glacier'

Very similar to 'Purity' although flower is larger in size.



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S. hartmannii 'Fire and Ice' (S.hartmannii 'Red Brown' x S.hartmannii 'Red Snow')

Another superb seedling shows again the heavy red centre markings of the flower that make this form so attractive.

These are many other fine clones such as 'Kerri', 'Eric Marigold', 'George', 'Red Circles', etc. that are worthwhile having as they have also proved themselves.

The S. hartmannii and S. fitzgeraldii crosses.

Sarco. Bernice Klein 'Peppers' (Heartlight x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

Here the colour of 'Lorraine' has broken up into intense spotting.

Sarco. Bernice Klein 'ThunderBall'.

This is consistent with the "Explosion" effect of the colours coming from this cross, with the last flowers on the raceme being darker than the first to open. Selfing these should result in some extremely good coloured blooms.

Sarco. Cherie (S. Fitzhart x S. fitzgeraldii) The Cherie's can be very colourful, especially if S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' is in the parentage.

Sarco. Fitzhart (S. hartmannii x S. fitzgeraldii)

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Snowflake' from a crossing of S. fitzgeraldii '50c' by S. hartmannii var. album. Not a good shaped flower but certainly different and eye catching.

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Red Eye' Truly the most superb clone from S. fitzgeraldii 'Red Eye'.

This cross has all the qualities you could want; size, arrangement on the stems, strong upright flower stems and superb contrast in colour.

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Perfection' Excellent shaped flower with a nice light lavender centre.

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Ground Peppers' Flowers have a delightful combination of central circles and fine spotting. Always flowers the same.

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Aurora' Flowers have excellent shape and colour, from the S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC parentage. A very attractive clone.

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Florafest's Fireball' This is from the selfing of the clone 'Aurora' and here we see how the colour can be drawn from the one dominant species, with all the red coming from S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine'

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Tetra' This clone is far superior in substance than anything seen so far, It has super shape and the lasting quality of the blooms is better.

Sarco. Fitzhart 'The Giant' Very large flowers, twice the size of our other 1212



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clone, also carries the dark red centre of *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Red Eye'.

Sarco. Fitzhart 'Three Chins' Another of the 'oddballs' this time from our 1212 cross. Should have been thrown away, however each flower is consistent.

Sarco. Heidi 'Florafest'

S. hartmannii Blue Knob crossed with *S. Fitzhart* gives a full rounded shape.

Sarco. Heidi 'Splash'

S. hartmannii Numinbah Valley form crossed with *S. Fitzhart* has given a superb splash radiating from the centre of the flowers.

Sarcochilus falcatus Imparts size, floriferousness and glistening texture to it's progeny. It's ability to enhance colour brilliance a tremendous asset.

S. falcatus 'The Giant' (Ravensbourne type) This form of *S. falcatus* is large and has well rounded segments.

Sarco. Burgundy on Ice 'Ice on Fire' (*S. Judith* x *S. Fitzhart*) These are large and of excellent shape, with the normal glistening texture associated with the *Sarcochilus* and excellent substance.

Sarco. Fred Conway (*S. Michael Derham* x *S. Fitzhart*) Very large whites of excellent texture and substance. The size and quality of the 'Fitzhart' line of breeding are improving with crossing.

Sarco. George Colthup (*S. Melba* x *S. hartmannii*). An old cross that has / is being constantly remade (like many others) with superior parents.

Sarco Melba (*S. falcatus* x *S. hartmannii*)

Depending on which form of *S. falcatus* and *S. hartmannii* is used will dictate the quality and/or floriferousness of the progeny.

Sarco. Melba 'Dot'

Do not make your judgment on small plants. Sarco Melba and its hybrids need to be grown into large plants to see them at their best.

Sarco. Melba 'Divine'

Probably the best *S. Melba* seen to date, large and of excellent shape spike habit on first flowering a little bunched.

Sarco Melody 'Cara' (*S. Melba* x *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

These have a charm all of their own, the flowers are large, well spaced and this crossing has produced a vast range of colours.

Sarco. Michael Derham (*S. Arcadia* x *S. Melba*). This cross cross has *S. ceciliae* in it's parentage and *S. Arcadia* shows this in it's light pink colour. Now



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an infusion of colour, like *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' should be added, *S. Arcadia* has "Boot Leather" substance and great shape so the results should be some of the largest best shaped reds.

Sarco. Melody 'Sharon'

Truly a delight. Soft pink blooms covered totally with deep pink spotting. We are looking forward to seeing the progeny from this exciting clone.

Sarco. Judith (*S. Melba* x *S. Fitzhart*) 'Maree' HCC/AOC

This beautiful clone won its award in 1990 for Russell and Cheryl Kanowski. It has been included now in our breeding program.

Sarco. Verolica (*S. fitzgeraldii* x *S. falcatus*)

This cross was made by Clarrie Wuth and is spectacular. The *S. falcatus* has allowed the colour through and intensified it. The plants are very floriferous and compact.

Sarco. Bon Bon 'Andrew', 'Drayton', 'Florafest' and 'Peter' (*S. Verolica* x *S. hartmannii*)

The 'Bon Bon' cross has produced amazing results, just look at the parents, from these you would expect, if the best qualities of each came through, reasonably shaped white flowers spotted with pink. What we got was great shape and superbly brilliant colours.

Sarco. Lorraine Fagg 'Lorraine' (*S. Verolica* x *S. fitzgeraldii*)

Again this cross is outstanding both for shape and colour, certainly the best qualities of both parents have come through.

Sarcochilus ceciliae This delightful miniature produces hybrids that will bloom in the flask. Very fast maturing progeny and soft pink colours make this species an important parent.

S. ceciliae 'Gladstone'

This is by far the best form of *S. ceciliae*. Flowers are very large, well coloured and open flat.

S. ceciliae 'Florafest'

A superb clone from our '480' cross using the previous 'Gladstone' clone. These become very large plants with tall upright spikes.

Sarco. Elizabeth 'Rubies' (*S. Lois* x *S. fitzgeraldii*). Normally light pink we see here the influence of *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine', Both colour and substance & texture are superb.

Sarco. Mavis (*S. ceciliae* x *S. fitzgeraldii*)

Mavis has tremendous potential as a breeder. The colour stored in its genes can create beautiful progeny.

Sarco. Mavis (*S. ceciliae* x *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC).

This clone shows the superb colour that comes through from 'Lorraine'.



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Sarco. Pinky (S. Mavis x S. hartmannii). This is also a good parent for producing well coloured progeny. Has all the good traits of S. hartmannii and the ability to enhance colour from S. Mavis.

Sarco. Sherlock (S.Pinky x S. hartmannii) Here we can see how the colour of some parents will dominate over the usually white dominance of S. hartmannii.

Sarco. Powder Puff (S. ceciliae x S. Fitzhart)
This superb orchid bloomed only 5 months after deflasking. It has proved again the breeding potential of a good S. ceciliae.

Sarco. Bongeen (S. Mavis x S. fitzgeraldii)
This cross, originally made by N. Grundon and remade by Issy Klein, has produced a magnificent range of colours. These are very floriferous and the blooms have excellent lasting quality.

Sarco. Bongeen (S. Mavis x S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)
Again shows the intensity of colour from S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine'.

Sarco. Cherry Derham (S. Lois x S Mavis) 'Sholden'
This clone has the deepest colour of all, a very deep purple. Unfortunately it is a shy breeder, however we have successfully mated it with S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine'.

Sarco. Arcadia.
A very lovely light pink flower of solid substance with solid upright spikes.

Sarco. Wandjina (S. Mavis x S. falcatus)
This lovely Sarcochilus has deep pink blooms on solid upright spikes. Blooms are slightly cupped.

Parachilus Jonathon Epstein (S. Wandjina x S. spathulatus)
The S. Wandjina has not allowed the colour from the S. spathulatus to filter through, however the S. spathulatus has flattened the flower and produced quick and easy growing compact plants.

Sarcochilus australis
Very difficult to grow in cultivation, however its progeny are very easy to grow and bloom easily. One should endeavour to maintain and promote the shape of this group.

Sarco. Otways (S. Lois x S. australis)
This has been a super crossing, colours from white through cream, yellow, mauve, violet, plum and spotted have appeared on long pendulous racemes. Most suited to hanging pot or basket culture.

Sarco. Otways Gem (S. Marion x S. australis)
A true "Gem" Miniature plants with racemes of orange, brown and green colours.



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Sarco. Otways Sunset (S. Fitzhart x S. australis).

Again we have seen quite a range of colours from this crossing, mostly in the orange, brown, red sunsets.

Sarco. Southern Cross (S.hartmannii x S. australis)

Long racemes of blooms larger in all ways than S. australis, but retaining the shape. One must not expect different colours.

Sarco. Southern Cross 'Otway Rainbow'

This clone was produced by using the dark form of S. australis.

Sarco. Starstruck (S. Southern Cross x S. fitzgeraldii).

Where the clone of S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' was used we saw a new (to Sarco's) colour emerge, From light orange to dark "Burnt" orange as well as white, green yellows etc. appeared on pendulous racemes, these plants are suited to hanging pot or basket culture.

Sarco. Shooting Star (S. fitzgeraldii x S. australis)

Here the combination has produced lovely pink flowers.

Sarco. Shooting Star (S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC x S. australis)

Showing again the influence of the 'Lorraine' clone -long racemes of deep burgundy flowers.

Sarcochilus weinthalii

This delightful species comes in a variety of colours from cream to yellow with light blue or white spotting.

S. weinthalii var. album

Although appearing to be an albino, this clone produces dark spotting.

Sarco. Weinhart (S. hartmannii x S. weinthalii)

One of the nicest Sarcochilus hybrids, producing compact, very floriferous plants with long racemes.

Sarco. Double Wine (S. Weinhart x S. weinthalii)

S. weinthalii can be very difficult to grow, so here we have doubled the influence of S. weinthalii, producing easy to grow plants that should breed in a similar way to S. weinthalii.

Sarco. Cherie's Wine (S. Cherie x S. weinthalii var. album)

Although the albino clone of S. weinthalii was used, the progeny is of better shape than the parent with long racemes on compact floriferous plants.

Sarco. Cherie's Wine

A beautiful pink clone, heavily spotted similar to a Sarco. Jewell.

Sarco. Susan (S. falcatus x S. weinthalii) 'Lavender Doll' AD/AOC-QOS

S. falcatus allows the colour of the other parent to come through. By using a dark clone of S. weinthalii produced the beautiful blue Sarcochilus.