



Woolf Orchid Culture

Novelty Sarcophilus at Woolf Orchidculture Recent Trends in Novelty Sarcophilus Hybridization *by John Woolf*

Introduction

At Woolf Orchidculture we take pride in producing the finest quality orchids. This can be seen by the number of AOC Awards and show prizes that our seedlings have gained. I would like to thank our many friends throughout Australia who assist us in our quest for quality within our Australian native orchid breeding programme.

This programme briefly discusses the characteristics of the main species and hybrid parents used in our hybridisation programme and outlines some of the achievements to date in novelty Sarcophilus. I feel very strong about retaining the exquisite shapes of the beautiful alliance some of these are:

1. The round filled in *S.hartmannii* shape
2. the open shape and spotting of *S.fitzgeraldii*
3. The long pendulous racemes and shape of *S.australis*
4. The spider-like shape and orange colour of *R.divitiflora*

It is important to fully understand the shapes and colours of the species within this alliance so that when you admire the novelty Sarcophilus hybrids in magazines catalogues and on slides you can see the features that each parent is imparting and whether these are dominant or recessive

Features to look for to add to or improve :

1. Colour - stronger and / or different colours
2. Growth – easier, stronger, more robust making specimen size quickly
3. Floriferousness - multi spiking, stronger upright racemes
4. Size - adding size to some hybrids, many of our species are small and line breeding will increase their size however they usually have other attributes such as colour.
5. Longevity of blooms - some species have long lasting blooms and this has to be a vital part of any breeding programme.

The Novelty Sarcophilus

There were many crosses that we felt were successful in achieving our aims that flowered over the past couple of seasons. However three crosses in particular created tremendous excitement. One must flower a quantity of seedlings from each grex to get a good overall view of the quality. This is easy for the hybridist as he simply keeps a flask or two to grow on but for the amateur grower with so many good potential crosses available he can soon run out of room in the greenhouse. So one must look closely at the parents and select those that to your belief show the greatest potential in the direction of your choice. The three crosses were :-

1. Sarcophilus Bon Bon (*hartmannii* x *Verolica*)
Sarcophilus Bon Bon 'Drayton'
Sarcophilus Bon Bon 'Freckles'

This cross produced superbly shaped gloriously coloured progeny and I have yet to see a seedling of this grex that was not of the 'keep' quality. When one looks at the parents it has not only retained the excellent shape of *S. hartmannii* it has improved the colour out of sight.



Woolf Orchid Culture

2. Sarcochilus Otways (Lois x australis)

This cross produced pendulous racemes most of which followed the *S. australis* in shape. Colours range from white through creams, greens, pinks, burgundy red and spotted. The plants grow very easily in baskets or net pots in a composted bark medium.

3. Sarcochilus Starstruck (Southern Cross x fitzgeraldii)

Sarcochilus Starstruck 'Burnt Orange'

Sarcochilus Starstruck 'Spots'

The remake of this cross using *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC produced long pendulous racemes with shape intermediate between both parents. They will look superb when grown into specimen sized plants. Colours range from greens, olive browns, light orange' dark burnt orange, plum reds and spotted.

The above crosses show why one should purchase a flask or quantity of seedlings of the same grex if they are available.

Some of the other Novelty Sarcochilus flowered

Sarcochilus Bernice Klein 'Peppers' (Heartlight x fitzgeraldii)

Lovely light lavender spotted and marked with magenta. Shape intermediate between both parents.

Sarcochilus Burgundy on Ice (Fitzhart x Judith)

Very large blooms of glistening white with the centre half of the bloom solid dark burgundy. The substance of these blooms have to be felt to be believed

Sarcochilus Cherie's Wine (Cherie x weinthalii)

These should have been similar to *S. Weinhart* however the shape was excellent in the less spotted clones.

Sarcochilus Cherry Derham (Lois x Mavis) 'Sholden'

Sarcochilus Cherry Derham 'Sholden'

This particular clone is outstanding and was made by Michael Derham. Truly a superb colour.

Sarcochilus Fitzhart (hartmannii x fitzgeraldii)

Sarcochilus Fitzhart 'Drayton'

Sarcochilus Fitzhart 'Love It'

Yes an older cross but the new clones flowered out of the last couple of seasons crosses made me produce a slide presentation 'So you've got a Fitzhart '. We have flowered some superbly coloured (some pure red) *S. Fitzharts* from the 3061 & 3075 crosses.

Sarcochilus James Woolf (Susan x hartmannii)

Our *S. Susan's* created quite a stir in the Sarcochilus circles- the first blue Sarcochilus. This beautiful new colour has carried through in this cross.



Woolf Orchid Culture

Sarcochilus Lorraine Fagg (Verolicax fitzgeraldii)
Sarcochilus Lorraine Fagg 'Highton'

Again the colour is superb but the shape is astonishing when you look at the parents. A superb cross for shape and colour.

Sarcochilus Otway's Sunset (Fitzhart x australis)

Again a good range of colours on long pendulous racemes. Plants will enjoy basket or net pot culture and will look super as specimens.

Plectochilus Richard Jost (S.hartmanii x Plectorrhiza tridentata)

An old cross remade that produced some excellent colour combinations and one that followed the S. hartmannii parent.

Sarcochilus Powder Puff (Fitzhart x ceciliae)

Lovely soft pink blooms of good shape.

Sarcochilus Susan (falcatus x weinthalii)

This cross created a stampede at the nursery when first shown. A superb range of new colours blue, lavender, bone and slate grey. It is pleasing to see these colours coming through in the progeny.

Rhinochilus Orange Stars (S. falcatus x Rhinerrhiza divitiflora)

This cross retains the texture of S. falcatus and the delightful orange colour and exquisite star shape of R. divitiflora.

Below is a selection of our breeding clones:

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii
Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Dolly's Delight'
Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Red Eye'
Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'The Clown'
The dark red clones or 'Lorraine'AD/AOC
'Claret' AD/ VOC
'Dolly's Delight'
'Red
Sky'
'Red Magic'
'Red Glow' etc.
The beautiful spotted clones of 'Rainbow'
'Fireball'
'The
Clown'
'Raspberry Delight'
Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Raspberry Delight'
'Sister'



Woolf Orchid Culture

'Pinatubo' etc.

The dark red centred clones of 'Red Eye'

'B H'

'Cara' etc.

The very large clones of '50c'

'75c'

'Goliath'

'Leanne'

'Dolly'

'Edith'

'Violet Preston' etc.

The peloric clones of 'Red Star' and 'Oddball'

Sarcochilus hartmannii

The Blue Knob clones of 'Andrew'

'Florafest'

'Wayne' etc.

The red centred 'Numinbah Valley'

The very thick racemes of 'Cara' Intervarietal clones such as the pure white 'Clacier'

'Purity' and the dark red centre clones 'Red Sun'

'Fire & Ice' and the superb bright yellow centred alba form of Blue Knob.

Sarcochilus hartmannii 'Blue Knob' albus

Sarcochilus hartmannii 'Numinbah Valley'

Sarcochilus Fitzhart (*hartmannii* x *fitzgeraldii*)

These only get better with every new crossing that blooms

The almost pure white, yellow centred 'Snowfalke' The dark red centred clone of 'Fire & Ice' & 'Red Eye'

Sarcochilus Fitzhart 'Fire & Ice'

The concentric rings and light spotting of 'Ground Peppers', the superb shape of 'Perfection' and 'Tetra'

The magnificent colour of 'Aurora' and from the selfing of 'Aurora', the 3075 solid red clone of 'Florafest's Fireball'

The huge size of 'The Giant' and the peloric clones of 'Three Chins' and 'Oops'

Sarcochilus Fitzhart 'Florafest's Fireball'

Sarcochilus Heidi

Sarcochilus Heidi 'Exquisite'

Clones such as 'Florafest' with superb

shape and size and the beautiful colours of 'Splash' & 'Exquisite'

Sarcochilus falcatus

Sarcochilus falcatus 'CW'



Woolf Orchid Culture

For shape the clones of 'Clarrie' and 'Andrew' and for size 'The Giant'

Sarcochilus Melba

For superb shape 'Divine' & 'Fred' are hard to beat however 'Dot' and 'Tortoise' are not far behind

Sarcochilus Melba 'Fred'

Sarcochilus Melody

Clones such as the well rounded 'Cara' and the heavily magenta spotted 'Sharon' both of very large size are a must. Very floriferous as well.

Sarcochilus Judith

Sarcochilus Judith 'Maree' HCC AOC

Clones such as 'Maree' HCC/AOC and 'Snow Goose' not only have great shape but are large as well

Sarcochilus ceciliae

Sarcochilus ceciliae 'Florafest'

Here we have dozens to select from.

The '480' cross yielded many fine clones as well as our newer '1309' cross - large flat pink to dark purple and well filled in. 'Florafest', 'Darling', 'Pinatubo' etc.

Sarcochilus Mavis

This grex has tremendous potential for Novelty breeding clones such as 'Pink' and 'Red Glow' are beaut.

Sarcochilus Southern Cross

This grex has unlimited potential for the breeding of new colours. It's long well spaced raceme also lends itself to exhibition style breeding.

Sarcochilus Shooting Star

This also lends itself to the production of superb novelties.

Rhinochilus Dorothy and the as yet unregistered cross of (Sarcochilus Canary x Rhinochilus Dorothy) will also be instrumental in the production of fine novelties in a range of colours

Rhinochilus Judith Larson 'Gold'