



# Woolf Orchid Culture

## **Sarcochilus weinthalii**

*by John Woolf*

Sarcochilus weinthalii

'The Spotted Sarcochilus '

Sarcochilus weinthalii Bailey

This beautiful little epiphyte grows in open forest scrub from just north of Toowoomba, Queensland to around the Richmond River in New South Wales. Mostly along the Great Dividing Range with occasional isolated patches such as the Bunya Mountains. It is found growing loosely in the outermost branches of small to medium sized shrubs at around 2000 feet (600 metres) similar to *Plectorrhiza tridentata*.

There are several colour forms of *S. weinthalii* the albino form with larger shapelier cream flowers with dull greenish spotting in the background. This form produces as much spotting in it's progeny as the normal coloured forms. The normal spotted forms are cream to green flowers with light to heavy spotting and blotching from reddish brown to dark purple ( a very dark grape or indigo colour).

The first hybrid made was *Sarcochilus Weinhart* (*S. hartmannii* x *S. weinthalii* ) registered by Cannons in 1970. This produced an easy growing plant with spotted blooms similar to *S. weinthalii* only larger and flatter. This original cross was made with the 'Southern Form' of *S. hartmannii*, now *S. aequalis*.

Other *S. weinthalii* hybrids of note are

*Sarcochilus Jewell* ( *fitzgeraldii* x *Weinhart*) Russell 1983.

A beautiful hybrid these plants grow well and produce long racemes of blooms. Colours of white cream to light pink backgrounds covered with red/brown spotting and blotching. The only drawback appears to be the low viability of the cross there aren't enough of these Jewels to go round.

*Sarcochilus Susan* (*falcatus* x *weinthalii* ) *Florafest* 1985.

This cross produced the first 'Blue' *Sarcochilus* colours ranging from bone through slate grey to lavender/blues. Very easy to grow on mounts clay pots and net pots and they bloom very quickly from flask on small plants they are very showy on large plants. This new colour is passed on as can be seen in the cross *S. James Woolf Susan* is named after my youngest daughter and James is my Grandson.

*Sarcochilus Double Wine* ( *Weinhart* x *weinthalii* ) Klein 1992

*Sarcochilus weinthalii* can sometimes be difficult to maintain in cultivation so to produce a plant with the same qualities and easier to grow Issy Klein made this cross. The results hoped for were achieved we now have an important addition to *Sarcochilus weinthalii* for breeding purposes.

*Sarcochilus Cherie's Wine* (*Cherie* x *weinthalii* var. *album* ) *Florafest* 1992.

This has produced superior shape to the *S. Weinhart* and *S. Jewell* cross long racemes of shapely blooms from cream to greenish backgrounds some with no spotting others heavily spotted with brown to mahogany.

*Sarcochilus weinthalii* has not been line bred or used in hybridising enough and certainly has some surprises still awaiting discovery, maybe you will unlock 'Pandora Box'. We have many crosses coming along however most have limited germination so you will have to do some heavy arm twisting buy any crosses you see or simply make them yourself.



# Woolf Orchid Culture

The hybrids registered to date are :-

- S.Aussie Weinman ( Weinhart x hartmannii ) Spence 1983
- S.Cherie's Wine ( Cherie x weinthalii ) Florafest 1992.
- S.Cream Puff ( Melba x weinthalii ) Florafest 1993.
- S.Davey Woolf ( Fitzhart x weinthalii ) Florafest 1995.
- S.Drayton Wine ( Michael Derham x weinthalii ) Florafest 1994.
- S. Double Wine ( Weinhart x weinthalii ) Klein 1992.
- S. James Woolf ( hartmannii x Susan ) Florafest 1991.
- S. Jeanne (Weinhart x Fitzhart) Wilson 1995.
- S. Jewell ( fitzgeraldii x Weinhart ) Russell 1983.
- S. Judy's Wine ( Judith x weinthalii ) Florafest 1993.
- S. Peach Spots ( fitzgeraldii x weinthalii ) Simpson 1991.
- S. Pindan Spots (Mavis x weinthalii ) Simpson 1995.
- S. Pixie Dust (Cherie's Wine x fitzgeraldii ) Florafest 1995.
- S. Tarnie (Weinhart x Heidi) Roper 1995.
- S. Susan ( falcatus x weinthalii ) Florafest 1985.
- S. Weinhart ( hartmannii as aequalis x weinthalii) Cannon 1970.

As stated before *Sarcochilus weinthalii* has not been used to it's full potential crosses with allied Genera such as *Phalaenopsis* and *Rhinerrhiza* should be superb.

**Good Growing !**