



Woolf Orchid Culture

The Real Red Story - *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC

by John Woolf

The Real Red Story

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC was collected by Lorraine Fagg around 1976 in a ravine in Northern New South Wales. Lorraine and some friends were out photographing *S. fitzgeraldii* in situ some huge specimens were seen as well as some quite colourful clones. Whilst taking a breather on a rather large rock. Lorraine spotted this poor little 4 growth seedling withering away not far from her. The plant pretty much on it's way to plant heaven. Rather than let it perish Lorraine took it home for some badly needed R & R had she not done so this famous clone would have most likely perished.

The little seedling had not yet flowered so no one knew it's worth or the influence it would have on Hybrids within the *Sarcochilus* Alliance. The plant very slowly recovered over the next few years and bloomed a nice pink. With each subsequent blooming the flowers became darker pink then red. We have not yet found the reason for this but this is also a feature of many of it's progeny. By far the best and darkest blooms appear when the plants are mature. Another feature is the seasonal changes to the colour of *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC some years solid red others mottled with white. Lorraine said that whenever visitors came to view her plants she would hide 'Lorraine' in her bedroom.

Some 20 years ago Lorraine selfed *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' and grew on many of the seedlings. The subsequent flowering of these seedlings has given an insight into what will and has happened when using *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC as a parent. Some of the selfings grew well and bloomed nearly all were in the normal spotted colours associated with the *Aemulus* for of the Species. As time progressed some 10 years from deflasking the solid red clones began to bloom 'Red Sky', 'Red Magic' & 'Firecracker' and as time marches on the superb reds such as 'Lorraine's Jewel', 'Samantha Joy' and 'Crackerjack' bloomed. Now some 19years from deflasking there are still many of the original selfings still to bloom and a few that are still the size they were when they arrived in this world so going on the pretence that the blooms are getting bigger darker and more shapely as the slower seedlings bloom what will these that are left produce ??? Supernaturals

Oh what a thought !!

Now to the *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC breeding first with other *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*.

When using 'Lorraine' with her red children we get very, very slow growers that will I believe produce solid reds eventually (in 10-20 years) so to give us solid reds that will bloom in a much shorter time we have used *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC onto clones such as '50c', 'The Clown', 'Red Eye', 'Good Pink'.

The results:

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC x '50c'

The seedlings bloomed in 50mm pots only a couple of years from deflasking and are as large as the pollen parent with a very dark purple eye covering over two thirds of the bloom.

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC x 'The Clown'

The seedlings also bloomed in 50mm pots only a couple of years from deflasking and have been of superb shape a little larger than their parents in super spotted colours and a percentage of solid reds appearing from the slower growing seedlings.



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Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC x 'Red Eye'

The seedlings also bloomed in 50mm pots only a couple of years from deflasking and have given heavily spotted blooms with the very distinctive 'Red Eye' also with a percentage of solid reds appearing from the slower growing seedlings.

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC x 'Good Pink'

Results very similar to 'The Clown' but slightly smaller blooms also with a percentage of solid reds appearing from the slower growing seedlings.

The Hybrids:

Sarcochilus Fitzhart (hartmannii x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

Using Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC gives in a way similar results to the selfings the first to bloom being normal colouring then as the slower seedlings bloom the heavily marked and solid red clones appear as in the clone 'Florafest Magic'. The trouble is unless you do the flasking yourself you don't know which are the first replated and which are the last or slower to germinate seedlings. Another interesting observation is that many of the hybrids from Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC have racemes where the flower colour and intensity of spotting darkens terminating to almost solid red blooms . I find this an attractive feature but it does give the Judges some headaches. This also happens with S. Bernice Klein, S. Cherie, S. Heidi, S. Sweetheart and others.

Sarcochilus Bernice Klein (Heartlight x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

Again when using Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC gives simply beautiful blooms heavily spotted with dark red centres to the occasional dark red.

Sarcochilus Cherie (Fitzhart x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

Using Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC gives superb heavily spotted blooms with a greater number of solid reds if Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC was also in the S. Fitzhart.

Sarcochilus Melody (Melba x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

Using Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC gives large blooms some with a violet/pink spotting and out of the slower leftovers solid reds as in the clone 'Red Glory'. This shows how strong the red colour of Using Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC is to overcome the white dominance of S. Melba.

Sarcochilus Elizabeth (Lois x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

These are of a dark plum red and of exceptional substance.

Parachilus Issy's Rainbow (Selwyn x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

This cross gave a good variety of colours from lightly spotted to heavily marked and a few solid red clones

Sarcochilus Shooting Star (australis x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

Long pendulous racemes of starry red blooms nearly all seedlings are red the only difference appears to be the intensity of the red.

Sarcochilus Starstruck (Southern Cross x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

This has been a superb cross with many colours Whites, Spotted, Whites & Reds, Caramel, Light Orange, Burnt Orange to solid Reds. Some are of the shape of S. Southern Cross others are full round shape. We have remade this cross some 20 times with different S. fitzgeraldii.



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Rhinochilus Rona (Rhinerrhiza divitiflora x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

Almost all burnt red colours long racemes of starry blooms making superb specimen plants.

Rhinochilus Lava Burst (Rhinochilus Dorothy x fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC)

These have given a range of colours from Golds with dark red centres to solid dark burnt reds

The Future:

These are only a few of the crosses made with S.fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC and there are many more S.fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC crosses in the pipeline. One in particular we are waiting to bloom is S. fitzgeraldii 'Lorraine' AD/AOC-VOC x First Light there should be some super reds & oranges amongst the progeny.

So when you next visit our Nursery don't always look for the big robust seedlings take a sprinkling of different looking plants, some people like the wide rounded leaf plants. We have seen some good ones appear from them but also have seen some 'Corkers' from narrow leaf plants. People also ask why we have such a collection of fine red clones I suppose it's because of the quantity we flower but then we get stuck with all the runts don't we !