

# The Genus *Sarcochilus*

Presentation by David Banks at A.N.O.S. Sydney Group 17 March 2017

In our meeting last March, David Banks provided the club with a presentation that in David's own words was, "probably the most researched, informative and complete orchid presentation I have delivered. Almost 40 years in the making! Those who didn't attend missed out, as it is highly unlikely (due to the sheer number of images and time taken to present) that I will repeat that PowerPoint talk again. I knew it would be just under two hours long, which is twice as long as they should be; if presented to a general orchid society. Specialist societies are a bit more forgiving, if they are interested in the topic." - Editor

To summarise some of the main points:

- ***Sarcochilus*** is characterised by a hinged 3-lobed labellum without a spur; large lateral lobes; fleshy midlobe resembling an apical spur; short column with a long foot and, 4 stalked pollinia in 2 unequal pairs.
- ***Sarcochilus falcatus*** is the TYPE species (1810)
- I recognise 23 different species.
- Confined to Australia (20 species – 3 undescribed) and New Caledonia (3 species)
- What was well known as *Sarcochilus hillii* is now ***Sarcochilus minutiflos***.
- What was interpreted as *Sarcochilus eriochilus* (like a small pale version of *ceciliae*) is now the true ***Sarcochilus hillii***.
- ***Sarcochilus parviflorus*** is endemic to Queensland. It always has a **white** labellum, with purple to maroon/brown banding. I consider *Sarcochilus argochilus* and *Sarcochilus borealis* as synonyms. This species does NOT occur in New South Wales.
- ***Sarcochilus olivaceus*** is restricted to New South Wales (and Springbrook & Lamington National Park, just north of the border in Queensland). It always has a **greenish to gold** labellum, with orange to brown banding. There is never any white or purple on the front of the labellum. The NSW Herbarium and their associated websites need to correct this and stop perpetuating misinformation. (It has the NSW taxa listed as *parviflorus*.)
- ***Sarcochilus roseus*** differs from *ceciliae* in having a smooth labellum without incisions between the front and lateral lobes.
- Two species have a fleshy labellum ending with a hollow chin; these are ***Sarcochilus hirticalcar*** (with internal hairs) and ***Sarcochilus spathulatus*** (with a smooth interior). These were previously classified as *Parasarcochilus*. ***Sarcochilus weinthalii*** was also included as part of the trio in this genus, due to its solid fleshy spur/chin, however I believe it is actually closer to *Sarcochilus falcatus* than the previous two species.



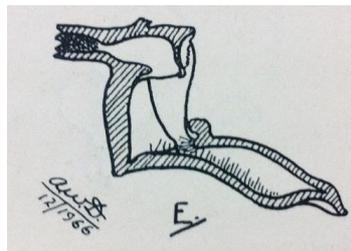
*Sarcochilus minutiflos*  
(Barrington Tops)



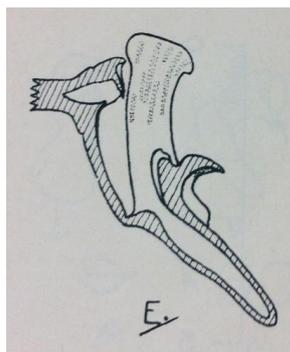
*Sarcochilus parviflorus*  
(Atherton Qld)



*Sarcochilus roseus* Mt.M



*Sarcochilus hirticalcar* 1966 Dockrill



*Sarcochilus spathulatus* 1963  
Dockrill



*Sarcochilus ceciliae* (Townsville)  
& *hillii* (E. Falls)

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