



PEDIGREE **DYNAMICS**

TWIG MOSS BROODMARES – WHAT MAKES THEM TICK?

Imported from France in 1978, Twig Moss's stud career started in South Australia at Milluna Stud. He came with racing credentials which listed three wins, included the Group 2 Longchamp Prix Noailles (2200m). He also placed second in the Chantilly Prix du Jockey Club (Group 1) behind Youth and third in the Group 2 Longchamp Prix Hocquart.

From the immediate family of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Levmos, Twig Moss wasted no time in churning out stakeswinners and he was eventually relocated to Turangga Stud in the Hunter Valley.

The Champion Sire of 43 stakeswinners and \$19.1 million, Twig Moss has risen to even greater heights as a broodmare sire.

Daughters of Twig Moss have produced 47 individual stakes winners and over \$38 million to-date. With 212 broodmare daughters listed in the Australian Stud Book, Twig Moss is making a significant impact on the breeding scene.

What makes Twig Moss tick as a broodmare sire and how can we exploit that?

Analysis of the sires of his daughters' best progeny reveals some interesting and not unexpected results. There is some strong linebreeding patterns and also pattern repetition which we will scrutinise in this article.

A cursory look at his broodmare sire statistics shows that he has been particularly successful with **SIR TRISTRAM** and his sons. Despite being domiciled in different countries, his stakeswinners by Sir Tristram are Dr. Grace, Our Cashel, Diamond Cashel and Voodoo Beat. His sons have produced SWs Reign of Honour (Military Plume), Prince Marauding (Marauding) and Gatana (Marauding) from daughters of Twig Moss. Stakes placegetters from this line are Sedgewyn (Grosvenor) and Gold Moment

(Marauding). Forest Jim (Grosvenor) is another carrying promise of future stakes success.

Twig Moss is linebred to MARCHETTA (1) via his grandsire Klairon and his dam's grandsire, Alycidon. Sir Tristram carries two other members of this prepotent family, in the form of Turn-to and My Babu. Sir Tristram is a direct descendant of SELENE and also carries her son Pharamond II. Twig Moss boosts this line via his damsire High Perch, who is inbred to another son, Hyperion 3f x 3f.

The proposal that the Marchetta family has much to do with the success of this cross is supported by the fact that 28 of his 49 stakes winners carry Marchetta family members, principally My Babu, Turn-to, Klairon and/or Alycidon.

Another stallion who has had a notable measure of success with Twig Moss is **KENMARE**. Fire Arch, Classy Fella and Regal Artery are all stakeswinner by Kenmare out of Twig Moss mares. In Hong Kong, Supreme Monarch, Decouvert and Handover (by Kenvain) have won over AUD\$1 million between them. With several sons at stud in Australia, this Kenmare / Twig Moss 'nick' can still be perpetuated.

Apart from the fact that Kenmare carries Marchetta family member My Babu on his third remove, he introduces another interesting line breeding pattern to the Twig Moss compatibility discussion. Kenmare traces in direct female descent to ELLEN HORNE (1). This also happens to be the same family which produced Twig Moss. **ZEDITAVE** is another member of this family and has so far produced two stakes winners from Twig Moss mares – Zedamoss and Andra. Yet another Ellen Horne family member, Arch Sculptor, is sire of the stakes winner Famous Arch from a Twig Moss mare.

The other prepotent female line prevalent in stakes winners from Twig Moss mares is the PRETTY POLLY (14) family. 21 of the 49 stakeswinners from Twig Moss mares carry Pretty Polly family members. These include Pardao, Seventh Hussar, Nearctic, Donatello II, St. Paddy and Promised Land. In a similar pattern to his Marchetta family strength, Twig Moss carries two lines to Pretty Polly up close in his pedigree – his sire Luthier and his dam's great-grandsire, Donatello II. Luckily for owners of Twig Moss mares, Nearctic is one of the principal members of this line and as the sire of **NORTHERN**

DANCER, this cross is one which should endure for many years to come. Already, stallions carrying Northern Dancer have produced the stakeswinners Easy Rocking (Barathea), Fairy King Prawn (Danehill), Mossman (Success Express), Asia (Danehill), Honour the Name (Royal Academy), Rose of Dane (Danehill), Royal Treen (Royal Academy), My Wanderin' Star (Western Symphony), The Delegator (Bluebird) and French Flute (Jugah) from Twig Moss mares.