

SADDLEBACK

Didier Mervilde

The saddleback is one of the mutations that is seldom seen in our aviaries and shows. The mutation appeared around 1975 in Australia in the aviaries of Les and Barry Ryan when they mated a pair of Normal Skyblues.

For Europe it was Reinhard Molkentin who brought the Saddlebacks from Australia to his aviary in Germany. He bred very successfully with those birds. When he decided to leave Germany to live in South Africa he sold the whole stock to Mr. Kopp (Germany) where I bought my first pair in 1995. The birds were a blue cock and a darkgreen/blue Saddleback hen. By doing this I became the first breeder of Saddlebacks in Belgium.

At home I first bred one round with them to obtain as much as possible visual Saddlebacks. The pair proved to be very fertile and I got from that round 7 Young Saddlebacks in the colours blue, cobalt and darkgreen/blue.

Later I separate the visual Saddlebacks and their youngsters and put them to Normals. By doing this I got a lot of split birds and a better format. The next season I had the choice to put split x split, split x visual Saddleback and Saddleback x Saddleback. I only used Normal colored partners to keep the mutation what I called "clean".

Because I love new mutations by change I bought that year Easley Clearbodies and I needed space and sold the Saddlebacks.

Inheritance

The Saddleback inheritance is **recessive**, wildtype sa^+ ; mutant sa .

- 1.Saddleback x Saddleback = 100% Saddleback
- 2.Saddleback x Normal = 100% Normal/Saddleback
- 3.Saddleback x Normal/Saddleback = 50% Normal/saddleback ; 50% Saddleback
- 4.Normal/Saddleback x Normal/Saddleback = 25% Normal; 50% Normal/Saddleback; 25% Saddleback
- 5.Normal/Saddleback x Normal = 50% Normal ; 50%Normal/Saddleback

SADDLEBACK

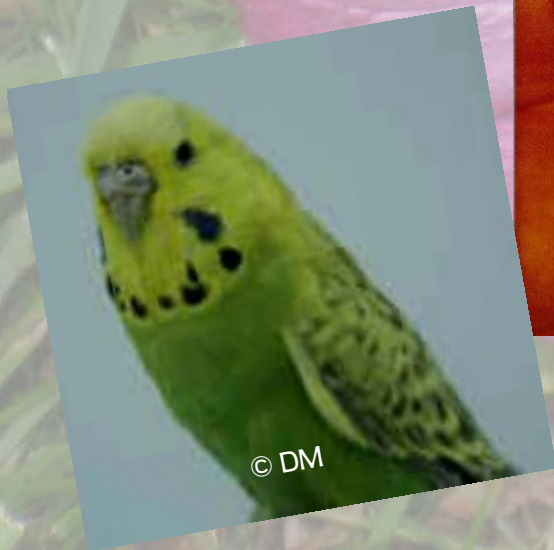
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Recessief
Recessive

SADDLEBACK LIGHT GREEN

General body colour:	rump, breast, flanks and underparts light green of a solid and even shade throughout.
Mask:	buttercup yellow, ornamented by six evenly spaced large round black throat spots, the outer two being partially covered by the base of the cheek patches. The buttercup yellow of the mask extends over the frontal and crown merging with the thin light grey undulations at the back of the head. The frontal and crown should be clear and free from all markings.
Markings:	on cheeks, back of head, neck including V area (saddle or mantle); thin light grey on light green base. Wing markings near the V area (saddle or mantle) light grey changes continuously to black with a well-defined buttercup yellow edge, all markings should be free from any intrusion of body colour.
Cere:	blue in cocks, brown in hens.
Eyes:	black with a white iris.
Cheek patches:	violet.
Primary wing flights:	black with a minimal buttercup yellow edge.
Primary tail feathers:	dark blue.
Feet and legs:	blue/grey mottled.



In theory you can breed the Saddle-back in all mutations but I think that this would be wrong. In my opinion you can breed Saddle-back in the darkfactor such as Cobalt, Mauve, Drakgreen and Olive and even Opaline. All other options should be negligible especially the cinnamon mutation. Initially, we would focus on the preservation of the mutation.