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Hydnophytum & Myrmecodia

Hydnophytum & Myrmecodia species are really interesting plants -- They grow, typically, not terrestrially and develop a swollen base which contains a complex of inner chambers. This provides a home for, and encourages a symbiotic relationship with insects in the wild (note: as a houseplant, it does not function this way...)

Light: Hydnophytum or “ant plants” require bright indirect light. An ideal spot for this plant would be near a sunny window without being directly in the windowsill.

Water: Water the plant when you feel the top portion of the medium is dry, about the top quarter is typical. Never allow the plant to sit in water for long periods of time or dry entirely.

Environment: Hydnophytum plants in the wild grow on supports such as tree trunks or branches. Plant in a loose, well draining soil mix designed for epiphytic plants; it is usually composed of coconut husk or shredded bark. These plants prefer lots of humidity, do not place in a dry environment or near a heat vent. Misting regularly is beneficial.

Toxicity: Reported to be toxic if ingested.

Of Note:

- When the bark medium is dry to the touch, submerge the container in water until air bubbles are gone or run under the sink/shower until all of the medium is saturated. This is to ensure that water has penetrated to the core of the root system/potting medium and may be a helpful tactic for effective watering for this and similar types of plants.

*When planting in a pot without a drainage hole, avoid over watering by estimating 25% of the container’s overall volume, with appropriate drainage materials incorporated when planting.