SCIENTIFIC NAME: Pinguicula Ehlersiae

COMMON NAME: Butterwort

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Mexico

GENERAL INFO: Pinguicula Ehlersiae is a butterwort named for Mrs Renate Ehlers, who in 1979 first collected the plant in Mexico. It is considered a perennial heterophyllous species, which reduces its leaves to small succulent rosettes during winter. There is debate as to whether the four related species P. Ehlersiae, P. Esseriana, P. Jaumavensis, and P. Debbertiana should be reduced to one species, as their morphology and habitats closely compare.

WATER: Watering schedules for Pinguicula depend on how they are planted. If using traditional drained pots, keep the medium almost permanently moist. As a general rule, always avoid excess water entering the central rosette, as this can cause rot. Once or twice a day depending on climate, use a small spray bottle to lightly mist the leaves, then spray the medium around the plant to evenly saturate the surface. (Pings typically have very shallow root systems). If planting pings vertically, keep the surrounding surfaces and air moist byregularly misting, taking care not to drench the plant.

SOIL: Use at 70-30 or 80-20 mix of perlite to peat.  If using this medium to plant vertically, incorporate more peat for stability.  Mexican pings typically prefer rocky substrates to mimic their tendency to grow from rock crevices in habitat.  Although, some species grow from moss or on the surfaces of rocks and trees.

CONTAINERS: Pots with drainage holes are best, as these can be place on trays to allow water accumulation. Pings can also be planted vertically! Use the above soil mix to fill rock crevices or hollow points in any chosen container. Mind watering to avoid rot.

LIGHT: Mexican Pinguicula do best under artificial grow lights on 14-18 hr schedules. If not using lights, full sun outdoors or sunny, south- facing windows will work best. Verify the specific environmental requirements for your species.

FERTILIZATION:  We recommend using MAXSEA brand fertilizer for all carnivorous plants, as these sensitive plants respond best to this formulation.  The plants will naturally catch flying insects like gnats and house flies, and these can be ‘fed’ to the plant by simply ‘sticking’ them to the leaves! Fertilize once every 2 weeks in spring and summer, and once a month in winter.  Never let fertilizer touch flowers!